



November 20, 2018

Legislative Activities:

The House and Senate began their lame-duck session following the 2018 midterm elections. The chambers are expected to remain in session through mid-December.

NASW sent an [action alert](#) to members of the Advocacy Listserv to promote reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA). NASW is working in coalition with the National Task Force to End Sexual and Domestic Violence (NTF) and the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NCADV). In the House, the focus is on Representative Sheila Jackson Lee's (D-TX-18) Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act (VAWA, H.R. 6545). Rep. Jackson Lee's bill includes language to curb gun-related intimate partner violence. This legislation also expands protections for Native American women, improves tribal access to federal crime databases, and affirms tribal criminal jurisdiction over non-Indian perpetrators.

Key NASW Legislation:

We do ask that you continue to advocate for **S. 2613/H.R. 1290- Improving Access to Mental Health Act** by [asking your Senators and Representative to cosponsor today!](#) NASW is working to gain support for this bipartisan legislation introduced by Sen. Debbie Stabenow (D-MI) and Sen. John Barrasso (R-WY). S. 2613 is the Senate companion bill to the House version – H.R. 1290 – introduced by Congresswoman Barbara Lee (D-CA-13) last year. A full list of cosponsors in the House can be found [here](#).

Don't forget to also weigh in on [H.R. 1484 the Social Worker Safety Act of 2017](#). This bipartisan legislation was introduced by Rep. Kyrsten Sinema (D-AZ-09) with original cosponsor, Rep. Elise Stefanik

(R-NY-21). With the help of your advocacy efforts, we are now up to [5 bipartisan cosponsors](#) for H.R. 1484. We look forward to continuing the momentum for this vital piece of legislation by continuing to add cosponsors.

NASW continues to push for support of [H.R. 1289, Dorothy I. Height and Whitney M. Young, Jr., Social Work Reinvestment Act](#), which currently has [19 cosponsors](#).

Get involved! You can join [NASW's Advocacy Listserv](#) to stay up-to-date on Congressional activity. We also have [resources](#) on our web page to help in setting up visits with your members of Congress. For best practices on Congressional outreach, check out the [Indivisible Guide](#).

Administrative Activities:

NASW is working with the Protecting Immigrant Families Coalition to solicit comments on the Administration's proposed "Public Charge" rule. Comments are due by December 10, 2018. NASW is providing [editable comments](#) that you can modify and submit.

NASW staff attended a beneficiary outreach meeting with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS).

Coalition and Collaborative Activities:

NASEM Consensus Study, *Integrating Social Needs Care into the Delivery of Health Care to Improve the Nation's Health*

NASW is supporting the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine Consensus Study, *Integrating Social Needs Care into the Delivery of Health Care to Improve the Nation's Health*. The National Academies is soliciting public comments to help inform the deliberations of a consensus study committee. Written comments may be sent to socialneedscore@nas.edu and more information is available [here](#).

NASW Endorses new *Clinical Practice Guidelines for Quality Palliative Care, 4th Edition*

NASW [encourages](#) individuals and organizations to adopt the National Consensus Project *Guidelines on Quality Palliative Care, 4th Edition*. These guidelines serve to improve access to quality palliative care by fostering consistent standards and continuity of care across settings. Download the guidelines [here](#).

Call to Action on Climate and Health

NASW signed on to support a Call to Action on Climate and Health that outlines policy actions endorsed by health organizations. The document will be presented at the next United Nations world meeting on climate change, COP24, this December in Poland. To read the statement and sign on, go [here](#).

Families USA Protect Our Care Coalition

NASW continues to be a part of the [Families USA Protect Our Care Coalition](#), working to protect the Affordable Care Act, health care access, and consumer protections. The Protect Our Care Coalition is mobilizing national and local partners to educate communities on health care issues, including on the issues of state Medicaid expansion, prescription drug pricing, and protections for individuals with pre-existing conditions.

National Navigation Roundtable- American Cancer Society

Staff will participate in the National Navigation Roundtable Fall Meeting on November 28, 2018 hosted by the American Cancer Society. This year's annual meeting themed "*Moving the Dial in Patient Navigation*" will include an in-depth panel discussion addressing the current and future landscape of patient navigation and payment models in navigation. <https://www.cancer.org/latest-news/navigators-help-cancer-patients-manage-their-care.html>

Integrative Pain Care Policy Congress

NASW staff is participating in interdisciplinary workgroups with the Academy of Integrative Medicine and participated in the November 10, 2018 [Integrative Pain Care Policy Congress](#). In the context of the opioid crisis, this group seeks to advocate for appropriate access to pain care and comprehensive treatment options. Workgroups are developing white papers to outline the elements of comprehensive pain care and opportunities and challenges to access quality care.

Social Work Healthcare Education and Leadership Scholars (HEALS) Program

The [Social Work Healthcare Education and Leadership Scholars \(HEALS\) program](#), funded by the New York Community Trust, welcomed its fourth cohort in September 2018. The Social Work HEALS program is a partnership between NASW, the NASW Foundation, and the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE). The program aims to strengthen the delivery of health care services in the United States by advancing the education and training of health care social workers.

Advocate for Supplemental Security Income: The **Leadership Council of Aging Organizations (LCAO)**, of which NASW is a member, has published a fact sheet to educate the public about Supplemental Security Income (SSI). SSI provides invaluable income assistance to older adults and other people living in poverty. However, outdated SSI requirements decrease program access and effectiveness. Use the LCAO fact sheet to advocate for the SSI Restoration Act of 2017 (H.R. 3307), which is supported by NASW and provides much-needed updates to SSI.

Elder justice resources & updates:

- NASW is working with the National Center on Elder Abuse (NCEA) and the FrameWorks Institute on an initiative to reframe communications about elder abuse, thereby promoting effective social policy solutions that prevent and address the problem. Read the new NASW member-only Practice Perspective [Strengthening Communities for Elder Justice](#) to learn how to apply the Reframing Elder Abuse strategy in your own work and to obtain current information, tips, and resources about elder justice.
- NCEA, for which NASW serves as an advisory board member, has issued its semiannual [review of elder abuse research](#).
- NASW congratulates NCEA director and longtime social justice advocate Laura Mosqueda, MD, for her recent [installation as the first female dean](#) of the Keck School of Medicine at the University of Southern California (USC), where NCEA is based.
- USC has announced that the next [USC Judith D. Tamkin Symposium on Elder Abuse](#) will be held February 27–28 in Pasadena, California.

Advocate for older adults in relation to public charge rule: As noted in NASW's recent [advocacy alert](#) regarding the proposed "public charge" rule, personalized comments are essential to stop this harmful regulation from taking effect. Justice in Aging, with which NASW works closely and which is the aging sector lead in the **Protecting Immigrant Families (PIF) campaign**, has developed a [fact sheet](#) describing the impact the proposed rule would have on older immigrants and their families. In late October, NASW

highlighted the effects of the public charge on older adults in a [Twitter storm](#), organized by the PIF campaign.

NASW participated in meetings of the following coalitions or other external initiatives:

- Eldercare Workforce Alliance
- Leadership Council of Aging Organizations (LCAO)
- Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights
- Coalition on Human Needs
- Mental Health Liaison Group
- National Coalition to End Child Abuse Deaths
- National Child Abuse Coalition
- Protect Our Care Coalition
- Medicaid Coalition
- Child Welfare and Mental Health Coalition
- National Coalition on Mental Health and Aging
- National Center on Elder Abuse (NCEA) Advisory Board and Reframing Elder Abuse Committee
- National Council on Aging
- National Consumer Voice for Quality Long-Term Care
- Center for Advancing Holocaust Survivor Care Review Committee (Jewish Federations of North America)
- Center for Excellence in Assisted Living Advisory Council
- Eldercare Workforce Alliance (EWA)
- EWA–Administration for Community Living–Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration Twitter chat on mental health and substance use among older adults
- LGBT Senior Hunger Summit (MAZON & SAGE)
- National Medicare Education Program (CMS)
- Protecting Immigrant Families campaign Twitter storm
- Reframing Elder Abuse workshop (NCEA & the FrameWorks Institute)

NASW Resources:

New NASW Practice Alert- [2019 Health Insurance Marketplace Open Enrollment](#)

Open enrollment for health insurance coverage in 2019 began on November 1st 2018 and goes through December 15th 2018 on the Health Insurance Marketplace. Be sure to enroll by Dec 15th!

NASW Practice Alert- [Quitlines for Tobacco Cessation: A Compliment to Social Work](#)

Social workers are well-suited to deliver tobacco cessation interventions and can offer quitlines as an additional resource to clients who use tobacco products. Quitlines are a free, accessible resource to help individuals achieve their goal to be smoke-free.

NASW Practice Alert - [Using 90837 in Private Practice](#) – This document discusses the use of 90837 and how one may avoid an overpayment request when using this code.

NASW Practice Alert - [New ICD-10-CM Code Changes for Clinical Social Workers](#) – This document informs clinical social workers of new diagnostic codes that became effective October 1, 2018.

Items of Note:

NASW-PACE (Political Action for Candidate Election) endorsed 229 individuals in the 2018 mid-term elections. As of November 16, 225 of those races have been decided. Eighty percent of endorsed candidates won their election including social workers Representatives Barbara Lee (D-CA-13), Karen Bass (D-CA-37), Susan Davis (D-CA-53) and Representative-elect Sylvia Garcia (D-TX-29) as well as Senator-elect Kyrsten Sinema (D-AZ) and Senator Debbie Stabenow (D-MI).

November is **National Family Caregivers Month**, and this year's theme is *Supercharge Your Caregiving*. Download resources for National Family Caregivers Month 2018 at [Caregiver Action Network](#). Learn about public programs to support family caregivers by visiting the [Administration for Community Living](#) or the [Eldercare Locator](#). Find other family caregiving information at [Family Caregiver Alliance](#) and [National Alliance for Caregiving](#). Use the [NASW Standards for Social Work Practice with Family Caregivers of Older Adults](#) to inform your practice, advocacy, and education.

Nominations sought for advisory councils on family caregiving

The Administration for Community Living (ACL) is soliciting nominations for [two national advisory councils](#). One council, established by the NASW-supported [RAISE Family Caregivers Act](#) (P.L. 115-119), will focus on the needs of family caregivers. The other council will focus on the needs of grandparents raising grandchildren and of other older relatives caring for children. Nominations are due on December 3, 2018; visit the [ACL public input page](#) for additional information.

Support Letters:

NASW has signed onto several letters of support. You can find a list of letters of support on our [web page](#). A sample of recent letters is listed below.

- [NASW signs on to Leadership Council of Aging Organizations letter urging the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services \(HHS\) to seek Congressional appropriations to house children who have been detained at the U.S. border rather than reallocating funds from other HHS programs \(10/24/2018\)](#)
- [NASW signs onto PSLF Coalition Letter to Education Secretary DeVos regarding Public Service Loan Forgiveness \(10/19/2018\)](#)
- [NASW signs onto MHLG letter regarding Medicaid Substance Use Disorder Provider Capacity \(9/21/2018\)](#)
- [NASW signs on to open letter urging the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services to extend Medicare's time-limited equitable relief policy and to develop a permanent relief pathway for beneficiaries who made a Medicare Part B enrollment error because of misinformation about Medicare and the Marketplaces \(9/20/2018\)](#)
- [NASW signs onto letter supporting the inclusion of Sect. 3003 from HR 6 as passed by the House in the final legislative package addressing the opioid misuse and overdose epidemic \(9/17/2018\)](#)

- NASW signs onto BHIT Coalition letter express our support for Administrator Verma's bold pledge to make health care providers tax free by 2020 (9/13/2018)
- NASW signs onto letter supporting SNAP in the Farm Bill (9/12/2018)
- NASW signs onto Human Needs Letter Urging NO Vote on Judge Kavanaugh (9/7/2018)
- NASW signs on to MHLG letter to Representatives Katko and Napolitano in support of the Mental Health Professionals Workforce Shortage Loan Relief Act of 2018 (H.R. 6597) (8/24/2018)
- NASW signs on to open letter urging House and Senate appropriators to increase funding for the Lifespan Respite Program and the National Family Caregiver Support Program in fiscal year 2019 (6/8/2018)
- NASW signs on to open letter urging House & Senate appropriators to prioritize funding for housing for older adults with low incomes in fiscal year 2019 (5/15/2018)

NASW has also submitted its own comments to the Administration and Congress. You can find this list on our [web page](#) as well.

- NASW submits comments on CMS-1693-P: Revisions to Payment Policies under the Physician Fee Schedule and Other Revisions to Part B for CY 2019: Medicare Shared Savings Program Requirements; Quality Payment Program; and Medicaid Promotion Interoperability Program (Sept. 10, 2018)
- *NASW endorses the National Consensus Project (NCP) Guidelines on Quality Palliative Care, 4th Edition (Aug. 24, 2018)*