



OFFICE OF GOVERNMENT RELATIONS AND POLITICAL ACTION
QUARTERLY REPORT JULY-SEPTEMBER 2009

111TH CONGRESS

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POLITICAL CLIMATE

During the third quarter, health care reform proposals continued to dominate in Congress, with the exception of the confirmation hearings for Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor. Throughout the annual August recess, Members of Congress from both parties contended with a wide array of public opinion on potential health care reform. Constructive dialogue was difficult to achieve, in part because no truly finalized bill existed at the time, and in part because even the basic principles of potential reform had not been fully outlined. Once Congress went back into session following Labor Day, health care reform continued to dominate the legislative dialogue in both houses of Congress, as well as in the White House. Although it appeared that little was accomplished throughout September, much of the groundwork was laid towards the end of the third quarter to achieve concrete health reform.

KEY LEGISLATION

Dorothy I. Height and Whitney M. Young, Jr. Social Work Reinvestment Act H.R. 795/S. 686

NASW continued to focus on the Dorothy I. Height and Whitney M. Young, Jr. Social Work Reinvestment Act (H.R. 795/S. 686) as our main legislative priority at the federal level. During the third quarter, the bill continued to garner co-sponsors, adding seven in the House for a total of 76 as of September 30, and one in the Senate for a total of nine as of September 30. We are concentrating on a House strategy, incorporating a variety of approaches to pass the bill in anticipation that the Senate will follow suit.

In this quarter, [healthcare reform](#) dominated discussions on Capitol Hill, and while NASW is took an active role in advocating for universal care, we also worked to incorporate pieces of the Social Work Reinvestment Act into healthcare reform legislation. Representative Towns continued to be an advocate for our profession and wrote a letter to Representative Waxman, Chairman of the House Committee on Energy and Commerce, asking him to include the Social Work Reinvestment Commission (one key piece of the legislation) in healthcare reform legislation. He stated in the letter that, “social workers are an essential part of the health care team.” He went on further to say that, “The SWRC is nearly cost-neutral, yet will have a tremendous effect on the state of the nation’s healthcare. The shortage of professional social workers affects the overall outcome of healthcare services and operations.” The amendment was not included through the House Committee on Energy and Commerce and therefore, we met with staffers in relevant offices to discuss the possibility of including the amendment through their Committee.

During the quarter, we also continued to promote the full, stand-alone bill as an alternative to the health care reform amendment strategy. We met with staffers in the majority and minority offices of the House Committee on Education and Labor, as well as the Subcommittee on Higher Education, Lifelong Learning, and Competitiveness, where the bill has been referred, where we asked for expeditious consideration of the legislation due to the overwhelming workforce needs of the profession. We launched a grassroots outreach campaign in the districts of the subcommittee members and continued to work with various members to ensure that the Social Work Reinvestment Act remained a priority.

This quarter, NASW increased outreach to ensure movement of the legislation through key states and districts. Significant leadership and relevant members of Congress were identified to support the Social Work Reinvestment Act, including members of the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) because the Social Work Reinvestment Act was identified as a “CBC Bill to Watch” in its Bi-Annual Report, [“Pathways Out of Poverty.”](#) We contacted chapters to work with us to encourage schools of social work, allied and social work organizations, and state elected officials who are professional social workers, to sign letters in support of the legislation. Chapters helped elicit almost 40,000 letters and postcards of

grassroots support from across the country. We created a [video](#) for social workers discussing the importance of reinvesting in the profession and living up to the social work legacy.

Our overall strategy at the local, state and federal levels, as well as with the Executive Branch, succeeded by promoting public education of the social work profession and the need for an overall reinvestment in our profession, thus ensuring our seat at the table with decision makers. We continue to believe we have an excellent opportunity during this Congress to pass the Social Work Reinvestment Act.

Student Aid Bill

On September 17, 2009, the House of Representatives passed by a vote of 253-171, H.R. 3221, the Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2009, a massive student aid bill that some experts contend is the single largest investment in higher education in history. The bill successfully passed the House as a result of staff lobbying and grassroots advocacy. Staff prepared an [alert](#) and update and made frequent contact with members of Congress on this issue to communicate the social work perspective.

Introduced on July 14, 2009 by Representative Miller (D-CA), H.R. 3221 will generate almost \$100 billion in savings by ending lender subsidies to boost Pell Grant scholarships, keep interest rates on federal loans affordable, and enact President Obama's key initiative to get more students to enter and complete college.

Highlights of the bill include:

- \$40 billion to expand the Pell grant program which aids low income students
- \$10 billion to help community colleges increase enrollment
- \$8 billion to help states improve early learning programs for children from birth to age five
- \$2 billion for historically black colleges and universities and other minority serving institutions

These investments are paid for by cutting excessive lender subsidies from loan programs and redirecting those funds toward higher education. Similar to what President Obama proposed in his FY 2010 budget, H.R. 3221 will originate all new federal student loans through the Direct Loan program starting in 2010. Even with the controversial plan to eliminate the lender subsidies, the bill is on a fast track. The Senate is preparing their own version of the bill, and both bills will need to be reconciled before they are sent to the President for his signature.

Health Care Reform

Health care reform monopolized Congress during the quarter. On July 14, 2009, Rep. Dingell (MI-15) introduced the [America's Affordable Health Choice Act of 2009, H.R. 3200](#), the result of work among three committees in the House to fulfill President Obama's goals of reducing health care costs, protecting and increasing consumers' choices, and guaranteeing access to quality, affordable health care for all Americans. On September 16, Sen. Max Baucus (D-MT), Senate Finance Committee Chairman introduced his highly anticipated health reform bill. America's Healthy Future Act of 2009 would make major changes to the nation's \$2.5 trillion health care system, including requiring most people to purchase insurance coverage or pay a fine, and prohibiting insurance companies from charging more to people with serious health problems.

NASW Action

NASW was active on health care reform during the quarter, sending out three alerts: one on [H.R. 3200](#), one supporting the [public plan option](#), and one entitled "[In Lieu of Flowers, Pass Health Care Reform](#)."

We mobilized our members to attend town hall meetings during the August recess and fall, and also sent out weekly updates on health care reform which can be viewed on our [health care reform Web page](#).

FIELD ORGANIZING

Grassroots Activities

During the quarter, individuals sent 15,108 e-mails through Capwiz to their congressional representatives. Federal issues that generated the most grassroots efforts included Health Care Reform, CEDAW, Increased Student Achievement through Increased Student Support, Hate Crimes, and the Social Work Reinvestment Act. The table below shows the distribution of e-mails by subject area for the quarter.

Subject Area	Postcards Sent	Number of E-mails
Health Care Reform – Support the Public Plan Option		3,288
CEDAW		2,703
Increased Student Achievement through Increased Student Support Act		2,030
Hate Crimes		1,789
Health Care Reform – In Lieu of Flowers		1,725
Social Work Reinvestment Act	3,000	1,126
Health Care Reform – Support H.R. 3200		928
Health Care Reform- Support the President’s Effort		510
Clinical Social Work Medicare Equity Act		468
Compose Your Own Message		219
Post-Deployment Health Assessment Act		126
Loan Forgiveness in Higher Education Act		85
Supreme Court Justice		75
Hospice Rate Cut		18
Military Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Response Act		5
Department of Peace Act		4
Create a Cabinet-Level Office on Women		4
Equal Pay		2
Economic Stimulus Package		2
Older Americans Act		1

Web Site Development

Nine alerts were posted to the NASW Web site.

POLITICAL ACTION FOR CANDIDATE ELECTION (PACE)

The PACE Trustees authorized \$20,000 for our lobbyists to allocate toward fundraisers for Members of Congress from late August through early December 2009.

Several candidates have declared their intention to run for the U.S. House or Senate in 2010. PACE is already interviewing candidates for possible endorsement consideration and is working with other groups to meet as many new candidates as possible. Also, our use of the Knowlegis program has allowed us to compile an ongoing report card of Congressional votes, enabling us to analyze which current Members of Congress are likely to be recommended for endorsement.

NASW LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES CHART

You can find a full list of bills at <https://ssl.capwiz.com/socialworkers/issues/bills/>.

<i>Number and Title</i>	<i>Sponsor</i>	<i>NASW Position</i>	<i>Last Action</i>	<i>Staff Responsible</i>
Addressing the Needs of an Aging Population				
S. 1263 – <u>Senior Navigation and Planning Act</u>	Sen. Mark Warner (VA) Introduced 6/15/2009 Co-sponsors (0)	Support	6/15/2009: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance.	Asua Ofosu
S. 647 – <u>Nursing Home Transparency and Improvement Act</u>	Sen. Charles Grassley (IA) Introduced 3/19/2009 Co-sponsors (2)	Support	3/19/2009: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance.	Asua Ofosu
Appropriations/Budget				
S. 1 – <u>American Recovery and Reinvestment Act</u>	Sen. Harry Reid (NV) Introduced 1/6/2009 Co-sponsors (17)	Support	2/17/2009: Became H.R. 1 passed and signed by the President as P. L. 111-5.	Jim Finley/Asua Ofosu
H.R. 1 – <u>American Recovery and Reinvestment Act</u>	Rep. Dave Obey (WI-7) Introduced 1/26/09 Co-sponsors (9)	Support	2/17/2009: Became Public Law No. 111-5.	Jim Finley/Asua Ofosu
Educating our Nation’s Youth				
H.R. 1361 – <u>Increased Student Achievement Through Increased Student Support Act</u>	Rep. Ed Towns (NY-10) Introduced 3/5/2009 Co-sponsors (37)	Support	4/29/2009: Referred to the Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education and the Subcommittee on Higher Education, Lifelong Learning, and Competitiveness. Gained two co-sponsors in the House.	Nancy McFall Jean
S. 538 – <u>Increased Student Achievement Through Increased Student Support Act</u>	Sen. Blanche Lincoln (AR) Introduced 3/5/2009 Co-sponsors (11)	Support	3/5/2009: Referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions. Gained two co-sponsors in the Senate.	Nancy McFall Jean
H.R. 3221 – <u>Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act</u>	Rep. George Miller (CA-7) Introduced 7/14/2009 Co-sponsors (41)	Support	9/17/2009: Passed House 253-171 Roll No. 719. 9/21/2009: Received in the Senate. 9/22/2009: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.	Nancy McFall Jean
Protecting Civil and Human Rights				
S. 160 – <u>D.C. Voting Rights Act</u>	Sen. Joseph Lieberman (CT) Introduced 1/6/2009 Co-sponsors (17)	Support	2/26/2009: Passed Senate with an amendment by Yea-Nay Vote. 61 - 37. Record Vote Number: 73. 3/2/2009: Received in the House. Held at desk.	Lawrence Moore

<i>Number and Title</i>	<i>Sponsor</i>	<i>NASW Position</i>	<i>Last Action</i>	<i>Staff Responsible</i>
H.R. 157 – <u>D.C. Voting Rights Act</u>	Rep. Eleanor Holmes-Norton (DC-AL) Introduced 1/6/2009 Co-sponsors (3)	Support	3/2/2009: Placed on the Union Calendar, Calendar No. 8. Pending before the Judiciary Committee	Lawrence Moore
H.R. 1913 – <u>Hate Crimes Prevention Act</u>	Rep. John Conyers (MI-14) Introduced 4/2/2009 Co-sponsors (120)	Support	4/29/2009: On motion to recommit with instructions Failed by the Yeas and Nays: 185 - 241 (Roll no. 222). 04/29/2009: On passage Passed by recorded vote: 249 - 175 (Roll no. 223). 4/30/2009: Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.	Lawrence Moore
S. 909 – <u>Hate Crimes Prevention Act</u>	Sen. Edward Kennedy (MA) Introduced 4/28/2009 Co-sponsors (44)	Support	10/22/2009: Passed as a part of the Fiscal Year 2010 Department of Defense Authorization Report.	Lawrence Moore
S. 181 – <u>Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act</u>	Sen. Barbara Mikulski (MD) Introduced 1/8/2009 Co-sponsors (51)	Support	1/29/2009: Became Public Law No. 111-2.	Lawrence Moore
H.R. 3017 – <u>Employment Non-Discrimination Act</u>	Rep. Barney Frank (MA-4) Introduced 6/24/2009 Co-sponsors (189)	Support	6/24/2009: Referred to House Education and Labor, House Administration and House Judiciary 06/24/2009: Referred to House Oversight and Government Reform 09/23/2009: Committee Hearings Held.	Lawrence Moore
S. 1584 – <u>Employment Non-Discrimination Act</u>	Sen. Jeff Merkley (OR) Introduced Co-sponsors (40)	Support	8/5/2009: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.	Lawrence Moore
Addressing Physical and Behavioral Health Care for All				
H.R. 3200 – <u>America's Affordable Health Choices Act</u>	Rep. John Dingell (MI-15) Introduced 7/14/2009 Co-sponsors (9)	Support	10/19/2009: Favorably considered by three committees, currently awaiting action by the full House. 10/14/2009: Placed on the Union Calendar, Calendar No. 168.	Jim Finley and Asua Ofofu
S. 1796 - <u>America's Healthy Future Act of 2009</u>	Sen. Max Baucus (MT) Introduced 9/16/2009 Cosponsors (0)	Support	10/13/2009 Reported favorably out of committee, awaiting action by the full Senate.	Jim Finley and Asua Ofofu
S. 1679 - <u>Affordable Health Choices Act</u>	Sen. Tom Harkin (IA) Introduced 6/9/2009 Cosponsors (0)	Support	7/15/2009 Reported favorably out of committee, awaiting action by the full Senate	Jim Finley and Asua Ofofu
S. 391 – <u>Healthy Americans Act</u>	Sen. Ron Wyden (OR) Introduced 2/5/2009 Co-sponsors (14)	Support	2/5/2009: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance.	Jim Finley

<i>Number and Title</i>	<i>Sponsor</i>	<i>NASW Position</i>	<i>Last Action</i>	<i>Staff Responsible</i>
H.R. 1321 – <u>Healthy Americans Act</u>	Rep. Anna Eshoo (CA-14) Introduced 3/5/2009 Co-sponsors (10)	Support	3/5/2009: Referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and, in addition, to the Committees on Ways and Means, Education and Labor, and Oversight and Government Reform	Jim Finley
S. 275 - <u>SCHIP</u>	Sen. Max Baucus (MT) Introduced 1/16/2009 Co-sponsors (1)	Support	1/16/2009: Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 17. Became Public Law No. 111-3	Jim Finley
H.R. 2 - <u>SCHIP</u>	Rep. Frank Pallone (NJ-6) Introduced 1/13/2009 Co-sponsors (45)	Support	2/4/2009: Became Public Law No. 111-3	Jim Finley
S. 1681 - <u>Health Insurance Industry Antitrust Enforcement Act</u>	Sen. Patrick Leahy (VT) Introduced 9/17/2009 Co-sponsors (11)	Monitor	10/14/2009: Judiciary Committee hearing held.	Jim Finley
H.R. 3596 - <u>Health Insurance Industry Antitrust Enforcement Act</u>	Rep. John Conyers, Jr.(MI-14) Introduced 9/17/2009 Co-sponsors (9)	Monitor	10/8/2009: Judiciary Committee hearing held.	Jim Finley
S. 245 – <u>Retooling the Health Care Workforce for an Aging America Act</u>	Sen. Herbert Kohl (WI) Introduced 1/14/2009 Co-sponsors (7)	Support	1/14/2009: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.	Asua Ofosu
H.R. 468 – <u>Retooling the Health Care Workforce for an Aging America Act</u>	Rep. Janice Schakowsky (IL-9) Introduced 1/13/2009 Co-sponsors (11)	Support	1/13/2009: Referred to House Education and Labor, Referred to House Energy and Commerce, Referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and, in addition, to the Committee on Education and Labor	Asua Ofosu
S. 697 – <u>Community Living Assistance Services and Supports Act</u>	Sen. Edward Kennedy (MA) Introduced 3/25/2009 Co-sponsors (6)	Support	3/25/2009: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance. This legislation is being included in the Senate health reform bill.	Asua Ofosu
H.R. 1721 – <u>Community Living Assistance Services and Supports Act</u>	Rep. Frank Pallone (NJ-6) Introduced 3/25/2009 Co-sponsors (23)	Support	3/25/2009: Referred to House Budget, Referred to House Energy and Commerce, Referred to House Rules, Referred to House Ways and Means, Referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and, in addition, to the Committees on Ways and Means, Rules, and the Budget, This legislation is being included in the House health reform bill.	Asua Ofosu
S. 408 – <u>Wakefield Act</u>	Sen. Daniel Inouye (HI) Introduced 2/10/2009 Co-sponsors (9)	Support	2/10/2009: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.	Asua Ofosu

<i>Number and Title</i>	<i>Sponsor</i>	<i>NASW Position</i>	<i>Last Action</i>	<i>Staff Responsible</i>
H.R. 479 – <u>Wakefield Act</u>	Rep. Jim Matheson (UT-1) Introduced 1/13/2009 Co-sponsors (39)	Support	3/31/2009: After House passage (Roll Call vote 390-6), received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.	Asua Ofosu
S. 717 – <u>21st Century Cancer ALERT Act</u>	Sen. Edward Kennedy (MA) Introduced 3/26/2009 Co-sponsors (21)	Support	3/26/2009: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.	Asua Ofosu
H.R. 3090 – <u>Health Equity and Accountability Act</u>	Rep. Donna Christensen (VI-AL) Introduced 6/26/2009 Co-sponsors (57)	Support	8/3/2009: Referred to the Subcommittee on Military Personnel. 8/19/2009: Referred to the Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights, and Civil Liberties.	Asua Ofosu
H.R. 1844 – <u>Comprehensive Cancer Care Improvement Act</u>	Rep. Lois Capps (CA-23) Introduced 4/1/2009 Co-sponsors (45)	Support	4/1/2009: Referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and, in addition, to the Committee on Ways and Means	Asua Ofosu
H.R. 3098 – <u>Caring for an Aging America Act</u>	Rep. Carolyn Kilpatrick (MI-13) Introduced 6/26/2009 Co-sponsors (1)	Support	6/26/2009: Referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.	Asua Ofosu
S. 750 – <u>Caring for an Aging America Act</u>	Sen. Barbara Boxer (CA) Introduced 3/31/2009 Co-sponsors (2)	Support	3/31/2009: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.	Asua Ofosu
Supporting Members of the Military and Veterans				
S. 711 – <u>Post-Deployment Health Assessment Act</u>	Sen. Max Baucus (MT) Introduced 3/25/2009 Co-sponsors (17)	Support	3/25/2009: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Armed Services.	Elizabeth Franklin
H.R. 2058 – <u>Post-Deployment Health Assessment Act</u>	Rep. Denny Rehberg (MT-AL) Introduced 4/23/2009 Co-sponsors (32)	Support	4/24/2009: Referred to the Subcommittee on Health. Referred to the Committee on Armed Services, and in addition to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.	Elizabeth Franklin
H.R. 840 – <u>Military Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Response Act</u>	Rep. Louise McIntosh Slaughter (NY-28) Introduced 2/3/09 Co-sponsors (54)	Support	2/3/2009: Referred to House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, Subcommittee on Health 3/16/2009: Referred to the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security	Elizabeth Franklin

<i>Number and Title</i>	<i>Sponsor</i>	<i>NASW Position</i>	<i>Last Action</i>	<i>Staff Responsible</i>
Ensuring the Supply of Social Workers to Meet the Increasing Demand: Social Work Reinvestment Initiative				
H.R. 795 – <u>Social Work Reinvestment Act</u>	Rep. Ed Towns (NY-10) Introduced 2/3/2009 Co-sponsors (78)	Support	03/23/2009: Referred to the Subcommittee on Higher Education, Lifelong Learning, and Competitiveness. Provisions of this legislation are being considered for inclusion in the House health reform bill.	Elizabeth Franklin
S. 686 – <u>Social Work Reinvestment Act</u>	Sen. Barbara Mikulski (MD) Introduced 3/24/2009 Co-sponsors (10)	Support	3/24/2008: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions	Elizabeth Franklin
S. 687 – <u>Clinical Social Work Medicare Equity Act</u>	Sen. Barbara Mikulski (MD) Introduced 3/24/2009 Co-sponsors (4)	Support	03/24/2009: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance. Related legislation favorably considered by several House Committees and included in H.R. 3200, currently awaiting full consideration by the House.	Jim Finley
S. 114 – <u>National Center for Social Work Research Act</u>	Sen. Daniel Inouye (HI) Introduced 1/6/2009 Co-sponsors (0)	Support	1/6/2009: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions	Asua Ofosu
H.R. 1490 – <u>Teri Zenner Social Worker Safety Act</u>	Rep. Dennis Moore (KS-3) Introduced 3/12/2009 Co-sponsors (46)	Support	5/14/2009: Referred to the Subcommittee on Healthy Families and Communities.	Asua Ofosu
H. Res. 240 – <u>Social Work Month Resolution</u>	Rep. Carol Shea-Porter (NH-1) Introduced 3/12/2009 Co-sponsors (28)	Support	3/17/2009: On motion to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, as amended. Agreed to by the Yeas and Nays: (2/3 required): 421 - 0 (Roll no. 128).	Elizabeth Franklin
S. 1403 – <u>Strengthen Social Work Training Act</u>	Sen. Daniel Inouye (HI) Introduced 7/7/2009 Co-sponsors (1)	Support	7/7/2009: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.	Asua Ofosu