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February 26, 2010

Elizabeth J. Clark, Ph.D., ACSW
Executive Director
National Association of Social Workers
750 First Street, Suite 700
Washington, DC 20002

Dear Dr. Clark:

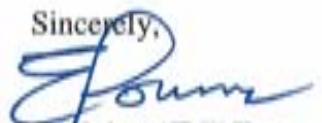
I extend my sincere congratulations to the National Association of Social Workers (NASW) for the 50th Anniversary of the Academy of Certified Social Workers (ACSW). Established in 1960 as the first social work credential, the ACSW proudly stands as a symbol of social work leadership today.

This 50th Anniversary is significant for Americans because it honors those past and present Academy members who have made noteworthy contributions to society. The achievements of Academy members such as Whitney Young, James Dumpson, Ada Deer, Delwin Anderson, Bernice Harper, Warren Graham, and Jessica Sawyer can be found in today's social programs.

Members of the Academy of Certified Social Workers (ACSW) represent the thought leadership of the profession. In clinical settings and case management; in courtrooms, communities, government agencies, and medical facilities; in university and other professional educational venues, and at local, state and federal policy levels, ACSWs span the range of social work practice from direct service to research and systems analysis for individuals, families, groups, and communities.

Social workers with NASW credentials, including Academy members, hold themselves to a higher standard of social work practice by indicating they have met *national* practice standards, completed knowledge requirements, and have shown evidence of professional mastery in social work practice. The nation recognizes the contribution of credentialed social workers, such as Academy members both past and present, and offers our thanks for the difference you make in the lives millions of people within the US each year.

Again, I extend my congratulations to the members of the Academy of Certified Social Workers and look forward to outstanding social work achievements in the future.

Sincerely,

Edolphus "Ed" Towns
Member of Congress



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 111th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

House of Representatives

RECOGNITION OF THE 50th
ANNIVERSARY OF THE ACADEMY OF
CERTIFIED SOCIAL WORKERS – THE
HONORABLE EDOLPHUS TOWNS –
(Extension of Remarks Friday, February 26,
2010)

Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 50th Anniversary of the Academy of Certified Social Workers (ACSW). The year 2010 provides us an opportunity to highlight the accomplishments of Academy members throughout the past five decades.

Established in 1960, on the verge of revolutionary social reforms, the Academy of Certified Social Workers was the first credential formed by the National Association of Social Workers to acknowledge leaders committed to the social work profession and to improving society. Before individual states enacted licensing regulations for the social workers, the Academy served as the sole source of designating social workers qualified for social work practice.

The 50th Anniversary of the Academy of Certified Social Workers is noteworthy in America because it recognizes the past and present social workers who have made significant contributions to society. Academy members include:

- **James Dumpson** is the former vice president of the New York Community Trust, one of the nation's largest, oldest and most respected philanthropic organizations and a leader in the community foundation movement.
- **Ada Deer** is recognized as an advocate and organizer on behalf of Native Americans. She became the first woman to be appointed Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs, US Department of the Interior.
- **Delwin Anderson** was Director of the Social Work Service of the Department of Medicine and Surgery in the Veteran's Administration from 1964 to 1974.
- **Bernice Harper** was Medical Care Advisor to the Health Care Financing Administration in Washington, DC and she is a pioneer in hospice and palliative care.
- **Warren Graham**, with funding from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, implemented the "Reclaiming Futures Initiative," instituting county-wide change in the New York juvenile justice system addressing adolescents who are substance abusers.

- **Jessica Sawyer**, who is currently involved in the development and implementation of a pioneering process for incorporating mental health treatment in a medical setting in North Carolina.

Members of the Academy of Certified Social Workers represent the thought leadership of the profession. In clinical settings and case management; in courtrooms, communities, government agencies, and medical facilities; in universities and other professional educational venues and at local, state, and federal policy level; ACSWs span the range of social work practice from direct service to research and systems analysis for individuals, families, groups, and communities.

The accomplishments of Academy members in social justice, social welfare, mental health, and philanthropy and humanitarianism have had significant positive effects in our society. Today's Academy holders continue to create and inform innovative practices to improve the quality of life for current and future generations of Americans.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the ACSW leaders who influenced America so profoundly in the past and acknowledging the work of over 35,000 current members of the Academy who continue to make a difference in people's lives today.