

(115TH CONGRESS)

SOCIAL WORKERS IN **CONGRESS**

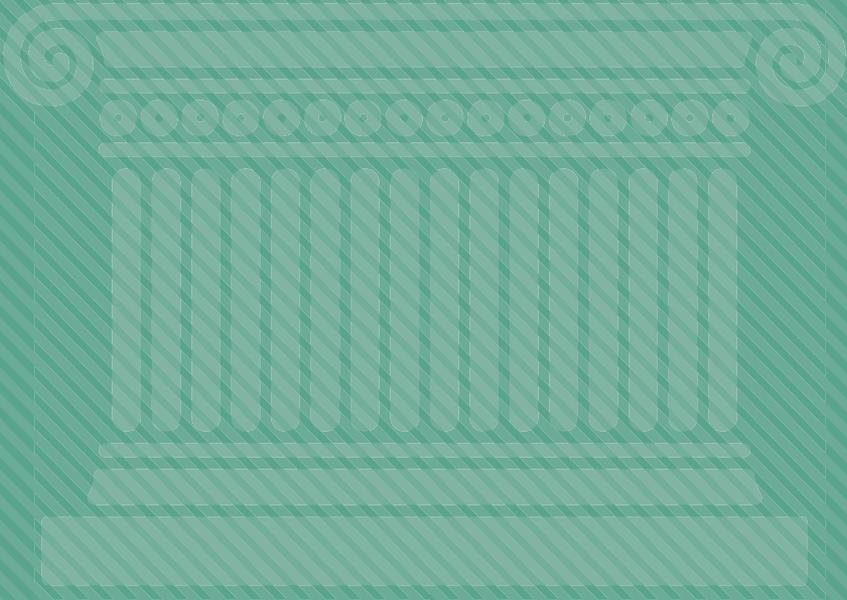


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INTRODUCTION

The National Association of Social Workers (NASW) is the largest membership organization of professional social workers in the United States, with 55 Chapters in every state, and Washington DC, Guam, New York City, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Our members are practitioners, educators, researchers and policy makers who work with individuals, families and communities in numerous settings to address challenges such as child abuse and neglect, poverty, chronic illness, substance abuse, mental illness, and disaster recovery.

NASW works to enhance the professional growth and development of social workers; to create and maintain standards for the social work profession; and to advance sound social policies that support the well-being of individuals, families and communities.

Social workers possess a continuum of knowledge about human needs and behavior, services delivery, systems that affect individuals and groups and the effects of public policy. Social work has a rich history of policy and decision makers including Harry Hopkins, Frances Perkins, Whitney M. Young, Jr., and Dr. Dorothy I. Height. NASW is proud that the social work perspective continues to be represented in the halls of Congress.

¹National Association of Social Workers, Policy Statements 2012-2014, *Social Work Speaks*, 9th Edition, 2012.

U.S. SENATOR DEBBIE STABENOW (MI)



Senator Debbie Stabenow made history in 2000 when she became the first woman from the State of Michigan elected to the United States Senate. Senator Stabenow is Ranking Member of the Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Committee. She also serves on the Budget, Finance – where she is Ranking Member of the Health Subcommittee, and Energy and Natural Resources Committees. She also serves on the Joint Committee on Taxation. She is a member of the Congressional Social Work Caucus.

In Congress, Senator Stabenow has a powerful and unique role to play in shaping our nation's manufacturing, health care, and agricultural policies and is respected for her ability to get things done. She is also a passionate advocate for children and an expert in small business issues. Senator Stabenow was the lead sponsor of the Improving Access to Mental Health Act in the 114th Congress.

Senator Stabenow received her Bachelor's degree and her Master's degree in social work from Michigan State University.

U.S. CONGRESSWOMAN SUSAN A. DAVIS (CA-53)



Congresswoman Susan A. Davis represents California's 53rd Congressional District in the U.S. House of Representatives. Congresswoman Davis' interest in public affairs grew out of her experiences as a social worker, parent, youth mentor, and military spouse.

In Congress, the Congresswoman has earned a reputation as a bipartisan consensus builder achieving legislative successes in education, military families and Veterans support, and health care. She is proud to serve as the Ranking Member of the Military Personnel Subcommittee of the Armed Services Committee. She is also a member of the Education and the Workforce Committee and Ranking Member of the Higher Education and Workforce Development Subcommittee. She is a member of the Congressional Social Work Caucus.

Born in Cambridge, Massachusetts, Congresswoman Davis grew up in Richmond, California. She graduated from the University of California at Berkeley with a degree in sociology. She then earned a Master's degree in social work from the University of North Carolina.

U.S. CONGRESSMAN LUIS V. GUTIERREZ (IL-4)



Serving his thirteenth term in the U.S. House, Congressman Luis V. Gutierrez has worked to establish himself as an effective legislator and energetic spokesman on behalf of his constituents in Illinois' Fourth Congressional District. At the same time, Gutierrez' tireless leadership championing the causes of the Latino and immigrant communities has led to greater responsibilities within the U.S. Congress and has earned him widespread acclaim throughout the country.

Congressman Gutierrez serves on the Judiciary Committee. In addition, some of the congressional caucuses in which Congressman Gutierrez is a member include the Congressional Social Work Caucus, the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, the Congressional Human Rights Caucus and the Congressional Task Force on International HIV/AIDS.

Congressman Gutierrez was a co-sponsor of the Improving Access to Mental Health Act and the Dorothy I. Height and Whitney M. Young, Jr. Social Work Reinvestment Act in the 114th Congress.

Before his election as a member of Congress, Congressman Gutierrez graduated from Northeastern Illinois University in 1975 and worked as a teacher, social worker, community activist, city official and Alderman.

U.S. CONGRESSWOMAN BARBARA LEE (CA-13)



Congresswoman Barbara Lee was first elected to Congress in 1998. She notes that as a social worker by profession, being an advocate for people in dealing with the federal bureaucracy has been a priority.

Born in El Paso, Texas, Congresswoman Lee graduated from Mills College in Oakland and received her Master's in social work from the University of California in Berkeley. She began her political career as an intern in the office of her predecessor, then-Congressman Ron Dellums, where she eventually became his Chief of Staff. Before being elected to Congress, she served in the California State Assembly from 1990-1996 and the California State Senate from 1996-1998.

Congresswoman Lee has consistently been a progressive voice in Congress, dedicated to social and economic justice, international peace, and civil and human rights. She is committed to eradicating poverty, fostering opportunity and protecting the most vulnerable in our society.

Congresswoman Lee is a member of the Appropriations Committee and serves on the influential Budget Committee. Furthermore, Congresswoman Lee is the chair of the Congressional Social Work Caucus, past-Chair of the Congressional Black Caucus, and the Congressional Progressive Caucus.

Congresswoman Lee was the original sponsor of the Improving Access to Mental Health Act and of the Dorothy I. Height and Whitney M. Young, Jr. Social Work Reinvestment Act in the 114th Congress.

U.S. CONGRESSWOMAN CAROL SHEA-PORTER (NH-1)



U.S. Representative Carol Shea-Porter is serving her fourth term representing the 1st Congressional District of New Hampshire. She was the first woman elected to national office in the history of the state of New Hampshire.

Congresswoman Shea-Porter is a member of the Armed Services Committee and Education and the Workforce Committee. Congresswoman Shea-Porter was cosponsor of the Dorothy I. Height and Whitney M. Young, Jr. Social Work Reinvestment Act most recently in the 113th Congress.

Congresswoman Shea-Porter is a graduate of the University of New Hampshire, earning a Bachelor of Arts in Social Services and later a Master of Arts in Public Administration. Congresswoman Shea-Porter married Gene Porter, an Army officer stationed at an Army medical center in Colorado during the Vietnam era. After her husband left the service, they moved to New Orleans and then to the Washington, DC area where she continued her career as a social worker and teacher. She founded and directed a program to provide services to senior citizens, taught political science at a community college and also taught politics and American history to retired federal employees.

U.S. CONGRESSWOMAN KYRSTEN SINEMA (AZ-9)



U.S. Representative Kyrsten Sinema is serving her third term representing the 9th Congressional District of Arizona.

In the Arizona where Congresswoman Sinema grew up, strong schools and tight-knit communities meant opportunity for future generations. The hard-working middle class could get ahead, and government was there to help ensure that opportunity for all who were willing to work hard and play by the rules.

Congresswoman Sinema became a social worker helping struggling families. She soon realized that the problems they came to her with – poverty, homelessness, job loss, abuse – were common to so many families, and that solving these problems meant thinking bigger than one family at a time. It required fighting for real change to rebuild an America that works for all Americans.

She was elected to the state legislature and worked to secure funding for Veterans, to provide business incentives for job creation and to fight back against attempts to gut basic health care for kids, cuts to services for the elderly and dramatic drops to school funding.

Congresswoman Sinema has been lauded as someone capable of working with members of both parties, while never letting go of her progressive values and principles. Congresswoman Sinema serves on the Financial Services Committee. She is a member of the Congressional Social Work Caucus.

U.S. CONGRESSWOMAN NIKI TSONGAS (MA-3)



Congresswoman Niki Tsongas was elected in 2007 becoming the first woman in 25 years to serve in Congress from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. For her first three terms, Congresswoman Tsongas represented the Fifth Congressional District, spanning across portions of Essex, Middlesex and Worcester counties.

Congresswoman Tsongas' work in the House of Representatives is motivated by a lifelong commitment to public service with deep ties to the communities of Massachusetts. She has been actively involved in civic and charitable life since graduating college when she took her first job as a social worker in New York.

Combining the deep tradition of military service running throughout her district with values instilled by her father, an Air Force Colonel who survived the attack on Pearl Harbor, Tsongas is especially honored to serve on the House Armed Services Committee. She also serves on the Natural Resources Committee.

Prior to being elected to the House of Representatives, Tsongas raised a family, practiced law, and served as a Dean at Middlesex Community College, all in the region she now represents.

Congresswoman Tsongas cosponsored the Dorothy I. Height and Whitney M. Young, Jr. Social Work Reinvestment Act in the 114th Congress. She is a member of the Congressional Social Work Caucus.

REINVESTING IN SOCIAL WORK INVESTS IN A HEALTHY SOCIETY

RECRUIT ↔ RETAIN ↔ RESEARCH REINVESTMENT

Professional social workers provide essential services to individuals across the lifespan and have long been the workforce to guide people to critical resources, counsel them on important life decisions, and help them reach their full potential.

Social workers are society's safety net, and with our current economic challenges, this safety net has grown to include and protect a diverse group of people from all walks of life.

However, serious safety concerns, significant educational debt, and comparatively insufficient salaries are threatening the ability of our nation's social workers to provide these indispensable services.

The Social Work Reinvestment Initiative including the Dorothy I. Height and Whitney M. Young, Jr. Social Work Reinvestment Act, is designed to address these challenges to the profession, thereby helping to ensure that millions of individuals and families throughout the nation can continue to receive competent care.

This initiative will create the foundation for a professional workforce to meet the ever-increasing demand for the essential services that social workers provide. Professional social workers have the unique expertise and experience that will enable them to help solve the social and economic challenges that our nation is facing.

For more information, go to SocialWorkReinvestment.org
or SocialWorkers.org.





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