

NASWKY 2015 Legislative Priorities

The primary mission of the social work profession is to enhance human well-being and help meet the basic human needs of all people, with particular attention to the needs and empowerment of people who are vulnerable, oppressed, and living in poverty. A historic and defining feature of social work is the profession's focus on individual well-being in a social context and the well-being of society. Fundamental to social work is attention to the environmental forces that create, contribute to, and address problems in living (NASW Code of Ethics).

Interpersonal Protective Orders: Dating Violence Protection

NASW supports participation in both prevention and intervention efforts that address all forms of violence across the life span (NASW, 2012, p. 363-369). **HB 8**

Predatory Lending/Poverty and Economic Justice

The deregulation of credit card interest, fees, and aggressive marketing tactics has exposed low- and middle-income consumers to predatory lending practices, which jeopardizes their economic future and increasingly leads to bankruptcies. NASW supports an economic policy that invests in "human capital" and recognizes that a nation's well-being derives not only from an economic balance sheet, but also from the well-being of its members (NASW, 2012, p. 257-261). **SB 32**

Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drugs

To improve the response to alcohol, tobacco, and other drug problems, NASW's position is that social workers must advocate for an approach to ATOD problems that emphasizes prevention and treatment. Social Workers must advocate to eliminate objectifying and stigmatizing language and labels and promote a more respectful, non-stigmatizing strengths-based language. All reasonable avenues to address ATOD problems must be considered, including psychosocial treatments, medications, alternatives to incarceration, and harm-reduction approaches (NASW, 2012, p. 28-35).

Abolition of the Death Penalty

NASW's broad ethical principle that social workers respect the inherent dignity and worth of each person contraindicates support of the death penalty. Capital punishment represents an official, societally sanctioned act of killing as a way to deal with lethally violent behavior. Capital punishment and the death penalty undermine the ability of professional social workers working within the criminal justice system to enhance a defendant or convicted client's capacity and opportunity for ongoing change. (NASW, 2012, p. 37-41). **SB 15; HB 82**

Voter Participation: Restoration of voting rights for former felons

According to the NASW *Code of Ethics*, "Social Workers promote social justice and social change with and on behalf of clients." NASW supports full restoration of voting rights for all convicted felons once they have completed their legal obligations. (NASW, 2012, p. 348-349). **SB 70; HB 70**

Family Planning and Reproductive Choice

The NASW Code of Ethics states that "social workers promote clients' socially responsible self-determination" (p.5). Self determination related to reproductive health means that without government interference, people can make their own decisions about sexuality and reproduction. As social workers, we support the right of individuals to decide for themselves, without duress and according to their own personal beliefs and convictions, whether they want to become parents, how many children they are willing and able to nurture, the opportune time for them to have children, and with whom they may choose to parent. (NASW, 2012, p. 129-135). **SB 7; SB 4**

Transgender and Gender Identity Issues

NASW supports efforts to provide safe and secure educational environments, at all levels of education, that promote an understanding and acceptance of self and in which all youths, including youths of all gender identities and expressions, may be free to express their genuine identity and obtain an education free from discrimination, harassment, violence, and abuse (NASW, 2012, p. 341). **SB 76**

End of Life Care and Advanced Directives

NASW Code of Ethics directs Social Workers to promote the right of clients to self-determination...and encourage advance care planning--which can include, but it not limited, appointment of a health care agent, completion of a living will, and enactment of physician orders for life-sustaining treatment--to ensure that each person's goals for end-of-life care are honored (NASW, 2012, p. 187-192). **SB 77**

List of Bills NASWKY is tracking

SB 2

Propose to amend Section 29 of the Constitution of Kentucky to permit the General Assembly or an agency or committee it creates to review, approve, or disapprove any administrative regulation of the executive branch during or between regular sessions of the General Assembly. (We understand this bill as having time specific implications to the Affordable Health Care Act and efforts to repeal)

SB 3/HB 152 would allow companies to stop maintaining landlines, which would create problem outside of metro areas. People in rural Kentucky need secure access to landline telephones.

SB 4 "individual, private setting" to describe the conditions under which informed consent must be given to a medical procedure, then the informed consent offered in accordance with that section shall be considered valid only if...face-to-face meeting with the patient and both parties are physically located in the same room.

SB 7 Create a new section of KRS 311.710 to 311.820 to require an ultrasound prior to an abortion

SB 15 relating to the abolition of the death penalty.

SB 18 relating to offender reentry.

SB 32 relating to deferred deposit transactions. Re: predatory lending and tiered maximum annual percentage rate.

SB 70 proposing an amendment to Section 145 of the Constitution of Kentucky relating to persons entitled to vote.

SB 76 require students born male to use only those facilities designated to be used by males and students born female to use only those facilities designated to be used by females;

SB 77 relating to a medical order for scope of treatment.

SB 119 relating to child abuse and neglect prevention, recognition, and reporting training for school personnel.

HB 1 will allow local governments to pass taxes in their communities to fund special projects. Though the idea sounds on the surface like a good way to raise needed capital, it could be a regressive tax in rural communities where household incomes are much lower.

HB 2 relating to wages. amend KRS 337.275 to raise the state minimum wage to \$8.20 per hour on July 1, 2015, \$9.15 per hour on July 1, 2016, and \$10.10 per hour on July 1, 2017

HB 8 relating to interpersonal protective orders.

HB 40 relating to criminal records.

HB 70 proposing an amendment to Section 145 of the Constitution of Kentucky relating to persons entitled to vote.

HB 82 relating to the abolition of the death penalty.

HB 231 relating to public health: require science-based content and age-appropriate and medically accurate standards for human sexuality education

HB 301 relating to child abuse and neglect prevention, recognition, and reporting training for school personnel.

HB 379 relating to civil rights: Amend KRS 344.010 to include definitions for "sexual orientation" and "gender identity

Reference

National Association of Social Workers. (2012). *Social Work Speaks* (9th ed.). Washington, DC: Anastas, J. & Clark, E.