

newsletter

Sent: Friday, April 11, 2008 1:10 PM
Subject: Action Alert



Dear Colleague,

Recently we became aware of a bill in Congress, H.R. 5447, the “Social Work Reinvestment Act,” drafted by the National Association of Social Workers. This is not a good bill for Clinical Social Work. In introducing it, NASW called for Social Workers across the country to contact Congress in support of this legislation. As the national Clinical Social Work advocate, we strongly oppose this bill, because it is not in the interests of Clinical Social Workers and their clients; and we have drafted an amended version to be introduced in its stead.

As-is, the NASW bill would create a Social Work Commission to advise Congress and federal agencies and to promote federal investment in education and training and in research and the workplace. On its face, that seems laudable; however, a reading of the text tells an entirely different story: Clinical Social Work is omitted altogether! Long ago, we learned that if clinical social workers are not specifically named in bills, regulations, and contracts, they will be invisible with regard to any rights and benefits that might be conferred.

We at the Center for Clinical Social Work immediately sent a letter to Elizabeth Clark, Executive Director of NASW, outlining our concerns ([click here](#)) and offering to collaborate on amendments that would strengthen the bill and make it one which Clinical Social Workers can support. Two weeks have passed, without word from her. However, we have become aware that NASW has enlisted the support of Sen. Barbara Mikulski, who plans to introduce a Senate version of the bill on “World Social Work Day,” April 15, 2008.

The Center for Clinical Social Work has created an amended version of the bill in which Clinical Social Work has a prominent place throughout. We ask you to read our letter to Dr. Clark, and review the NASW bill ([click here](#)) that omits Clinical Social Workers, and compare it with the amended bill ([click here](#)). If you share our concerns, please inform NASW (swri@naswdc.org) and the bill’s sponsors (listed below) or your own Congressional representative (Congressional switchboard, 202-224-3121) without delay. Please consider sending a copy of your correspondence to the Center at HR5447@centercsw.org.

The problems and omissions with H.R. 5447 show, with painful clarity, why our profession needs the Center for Clinical Social Work—a national organization devoted solely to Clinical Social Work. I hope that you will join us, and will make yourself heard on legislation crucial to your profession and your livelihood.

Sincerely,

Howard D. Snooks

Howard Snooks, Ph.D., BCD
President, Board of Directors
Center for Clinical Social Work

[Rep Towns, Edolphus](#) [NY-10] (introduced 2/14/2008)

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