

**newsletter**

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**Sent:** Thursday, April 17, 2008 10:21 PM  
**Subject:** Clinical Social Workers, speak out!



Dear Colleague,

Congratulations to all who have made the effort to oppose the 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. We call upon you and your colleagues to contact Congress in opposition. Many of you have done so—take a look at the comments of some of your colleagues, made to NASW and shared with us ([click here](#)). We have heard directly from Congress that your opposition is being taken quite seriously.

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. Please make your opinion known to those who think that clinical social work need not be mentioned in federal legislation.

This 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. In it, 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 asked Elizabeth Clark, Executive Director of NASW to collaborate on amendments that would strengthen the bill and make it one which Clinical Social Workers can support. Two weeks passed, and she did not respond. Therefore, we created an amended version of the bill in which Clinical Social Work has a prominent place throughout. We ask you to 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](mailto:swri@naswdc.org)) and the bill's sponsors in the House (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@centercsww.org](mailto:HR5447@centercsww.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 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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