

# NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SOCIAL WORKERS - WEST VIRGINIA CHAPTER

## 2010 Legislative Action Priorities

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### SOCIAL WORKER SAFETY, RECRUITMENT & RETENTION

- Improving Safety:
  - ✓ Minimize solo field visits by hiring more DHHR *Health and Human Services Aides* or similar measures
  - ✓ Promote inter-agency risk assessment and safety strategy/technology collaboration
- Professional Social Worker Recruitment and Retention:
  - ✓ Hiring Incentives: Recruit professional social workers via a dual Civic Service register; sign on bonuses, differential salaries, loan forgiveness, tuition reimbursement, etc
  - ✓ Create a *Master Protective Service Worker* Civil Service class to improve client outcomes, mentor/retain junior employees and establish an advance direct practice career pathway
- Expand consumer access to mental health services through direct Medicaid reimbursement for Licensed Independent Clinical Social Workers; make provisions for supervised clinical social workers and students
- [HB 4179](#): Equal Pay Commission: Add legislators & remove expiration date; budgetary: Increase allocation
- [HB 3257](#): Health professions loan forgiveness program, including social workers
- Appropriate state matching funds to maximize Federal Title IV-E Child Welfare training resources

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### CHILD WELFARE & JUVENILE JUSTICE

- [HB 4164](#): “Jacob’s Law” Creates enhanced specialized foster care pilot projects in four regions of the state
- [HB 4454](#) / [SB 552](#): Establish an independent Child Advocate Office to oversee & improve the state’s efforts in Child Protective Services, Youth Services, Foster Care, Kinship Care, Adoption and Juvenile Justice Services
- Provide funding to pilot the existing Child Care provider quality review rating system provision; Promote, recognize and reward national accreditation for private providers of child welfare services
- Foster Care: Continue to improve reimbursement rates to increase capacity, provide least restrictive, community-based care and improve ‘aging out’ transitional services; link rates to an inflation index
- [HB 4419](#): Meet existing caseload standards; Promote proven, evidence-based, measurable outcomes
- Increase early intervention funding: Birth-to-3, In-Home Family Education, Right From the Start, School-Based Health
- Enforce consistent protocols in Multidisciplinary Investigative and Treatment Teams

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### HEALTH CARE, MENTAL HEALTH, CHIP & MEDICAID

- [HB 4373](#): Expand CHIP eligibility by eliminating the 12-month prior insurance coverage ‘look back’ period
- [HB 4161/SB 329](#): Create an Office of Minority Issues to address health disparities and related minority issues
- [HB 4272](#): Expand “Prescription Fairness Act” coverage to dependent minor children
- [HB 4253/HB 2100](#): Increase the beer tax to fund substance abuse treatment, services and prevention programs
- [HB 2431](#): Emergency contraception education program; WV also needs a Medicaid Family Planning Waiver
- [HB 4712](#): Require public notice and comment for Medicaid state plan/ waiver changes and DHHR rules
- [HB 4215](#): Prohibiting gender discrimination in health care insurance plans
- Promote consumer-centered improvements in Medicaid’s ‘Mountain Health Choices’ program: Default children into ‘Enhanced’ benefits, Match benefit design with evidence-based practices, etc
- Position West Virginia to take full advantage of Federal Health Care Reform incentives

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### ECONOMIC SECURITY, EQUALITY, DIVERSITY & SOCIAL JUSTICE

- [HB 4332/SB 569](#): Unemployment benefits for part-time workers, certain domestic violence cases & care givers
- [HB 4161](#): Create an Office of Minority Issues to address economic equality, security and social justice
- [SB 171](#): Create a State Earned Income Tax Credit: Help low income families put more into the economy
- [HB 4130](#): Publicly Financed Elections: Create pilots and programs so as to minimize special interest influence
- [SB 437](#): Voluntary Retirement Accounts: Help small business help their employees save for retirement
- Child Custody disputes: Reaffirm and maintain the “best interest of the child” standard
- Support Equality, Diversity and Social and Economic Justice, and oppose all forms of discrimination