

# **Strengthening the Social Work Workforce: A Legislative Viewpoint**

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**Investing in the Social Work Workforce  
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# Social Work Workforce

## Issue:

- There is a looming shortage of social workers.
- A shrinking professional workforce coupled with a significantly increasing demand for social work services will negatively affect the 10 million clients social workers serve every day.

# Congressional Solutions

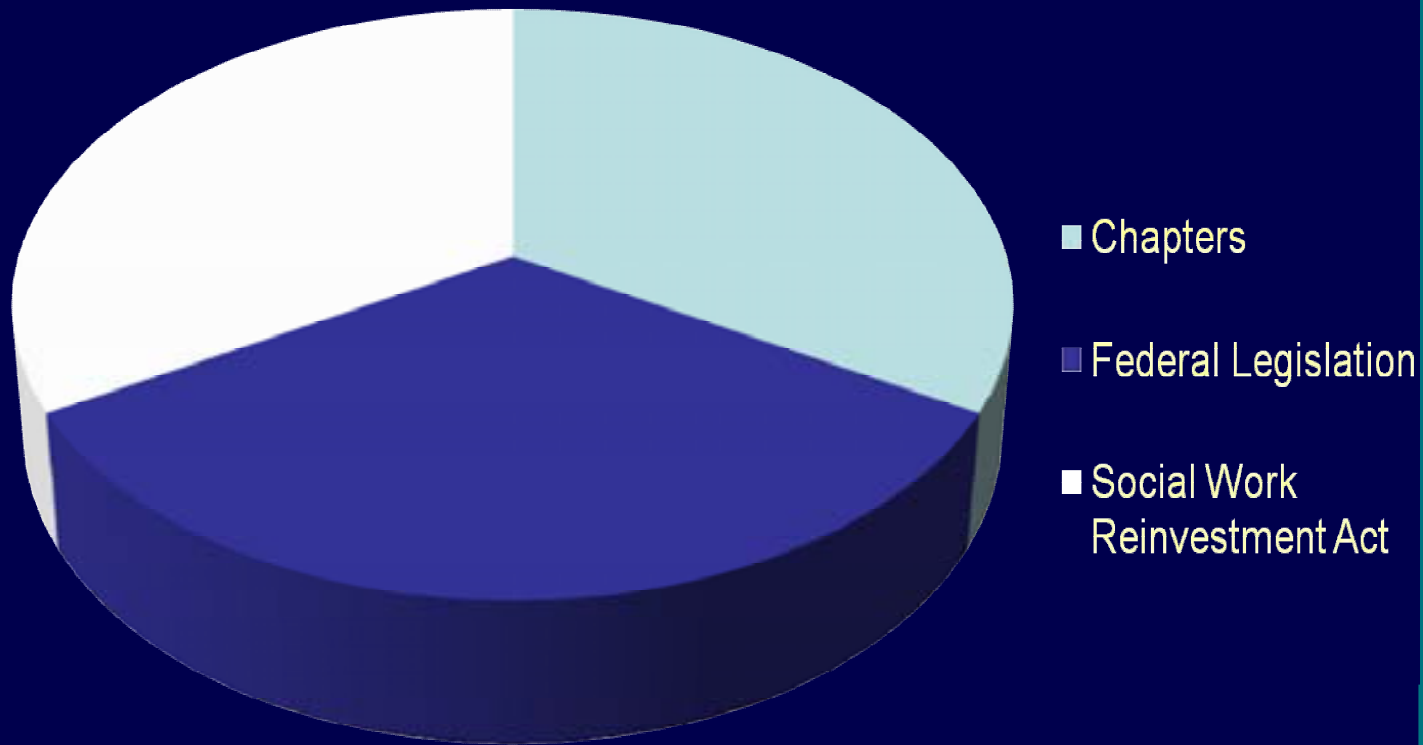
- Possible Solutions:
  - SWRA
  - Other Legislation
    - Congressional Report Language
  - IOM Reports
    - Research Studies/Projects/Programs
  - Definition of social work
  - Social Work Image

# Social Work Reinvestment Initiative



# Reinvestment Components

## Social Work Reinvestment Initiative



# Social Work Reinvestment Act

**Support H.R. 1106/S. 584**

"The Dorothy I. Height and Whitney M. Young, Jr.  
Social Work Reinvestment Act"



# Social Work Reinvestment Act

## Social Work Reinvestment Commission

The legislation would create a Social Work Reinvestment Commission to provide a comprehensive analysis of current trends within the practice, academic, and professional social work communities. Specifically, the Commission would address the future of the profession by developing recommendations and strategies to maximize the ability of America's social workers to serve clients with expertise and care.

# Strengthen Social Work Workforce Act

- S. 42 would ensure that social work students or social work schools are eligible for grants for training projects in geriatrics and to establish a social work training program.
- Introduced by Sen. Daniel Inouye (D-HI) on January 25, 2011. The bill currently has no cosponsors.

# National Office of Social Work Research Act

- S. 41 would create a national office of social work research within the National Institutes of Health
- Introduced by Sen. Daniel Inouye (D-HI) on January 25, 2011. The bill currently has no cosponsors.

# Affordable Care Act

- National Healthcare Workforce Commission
- State health care workforce development grants
- Education and training grants: Geriatrics , mental and behavioral health

# IOM Reports

- **Cancer Care for the Whole Patient: Meeting Psychosocial Health Needs**
- **The Mental Health Workforce for Geriatric Populations**
- **Retooling for an Aging America: Building the Health Care Workforce**

# Definition of Social Work

- CMS
- HHS
- Health Professions
- Allied Health
- Mental and Behavioral Health
- Title Protection
- State requirements

# National Social Work Public Education Campaign

**Social Workers**  
Help starts here.

**Help mends.**  
In thousands of ways, social workers help people help themselves. People of every age, from every background, in every corner of the country — whenever we're needed — starting here and now. Welcome to your source for professional advice, mapping stories — even a social worker directory. Social workers. Help starts here.

**We help.**  
Anytime. Anywhere.

**NASW Foundation**

# CSWC

- Congressional Social Work Caucus (CSWC)
- Chaired by Rep. Ed Towns (D-NY)

- “Social work is one of the most misunderstood and underappreciated professions. While we recognize that social concerns have a tremendous impact on health, education, economic and other development outcomes, we rarely recognize the skills and expertise of those professionals who address these concerns”.

~Haitian Social Worker – USAID Blog

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