



National Association of Social Workers

WEST VIRGINIA CHAPTER

2021 Legislative Action Priorities

Child Welfare, Family Supports & Juvenile Services

- **CPS/APS/Youth Services/Adoption:** Improve recruitment/retention strategies; offer higher pay for degreed social workers, achieve caseload standards, address safety, clarify MCO roles
 - **School Social Work:** Increase numbers to address trauma, expand social supports for readiness & learning
 - **Early Intervention/Prevention Programs Work!** Fund In-Home Family Education, Maternal & Infant Outreach, Right from the Start, Birth-to-Three & School Based Health Centers; Maximize FFPSA funding
 - **Juvenile Justice Reform:** Expand Family Courts, community & school-based prevention & treatment
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Medicaid, Health Care, Mental Health & Substance Abuse, Etc.

- **Medicaid:** Allow individual buy in; expand maternal care, assure funding, no work requirement
 - **Addictions Treatment & Workforce:** Pass mental health parity, expand loan forgiveness & tuition help
 - **Tele-Health/Tele-Therapy:** Make the COVID emergency declaration provisions permanent
 - Promote the **Health Policy Agenda** of West Virginians for Affordable Health Care
 - **Mental Health Parity:** Pass the Kennedy Forum model legislation
 - **Promote quality Mental Health Services** to keep kid & families healthy in the home & community
 - Increase/Apply **Tax Tobacco, Soft Drinks, Etc.** & dedicate funds to prevention, cessation & treatment
 - **Menstrual Equity:** Free products in middle schools & to incarcerated adults & juveniles; remove taxes
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Professional Social Workers: The Best Prepared for the Job!

- **Improve Social Worker salaries, safety, and working conditions**
 - Keep strong **Social Work Licensing Requirements** to protect the public from malpractice
 - Allow **Nationally Certified School Social Workers** the incentives offered other school professionals
 - **Social Work Education:** Increase/expand loan forgiveness, tuition support, state grants & aid
 - **Promote the hiring of degreed Social Workers as the best prepared for the job!**
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The Economy, Social Care Programs & Equality

- **Criminal Justice Reform:** Eliminate bail bond & civil forfeiture, enhance expungement & reintegration
 - **Do Not Eliminate the Income Tax!** The loss of services & opportunity would be disastrous for struggling families & individuals! Instead increase severance tax, enact WV EITC, invest in Higher Ed, Etc.
 - **Ban Conversion Therapy:** All mental & physical health professions uniformly discredit the practice!
 - Support the **Consensus Agenda on Disability Policy of The Fair Shake Network**
 - **Reproductive Health:** Support women in making reproductive health decisions with their health provider
 - **Promote Racial, Economic & Social Equality and Opportunity; Oppose Injustice & Discrimination**
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