

National Association of Social Workers, West Virginia Chapter***2017 Legislative Action Priorities***

*****Chief Action Priorities*****

- ***Mental Health Matters!*** Keep WV's kids mentally and emotionally healthy in their own communities
 - ***Medicaid Matters!*** Promote adequate funding for WV Medicaid and preserve Medicaid Expansion
 - ***Reduce Truancy!*** Expand **Social Workers in Schools** to facilitate school attendance and success
 - ***Increase Addiction Treatment & Workforce!*** Provide funding for treatment, loan forgiveness, tuition help
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Child Welfare, Family & Juvenile Services Priorities

- **Juvenile Justice Reform:** Promote community/school-based prevention & treatment programs
 - **Increase funding** for child/ family early intervention/ prevention programs: *In-Home Family Education, Right from the Start, School-based Health Centers, West Virginia Birth-to-Three program, Etc.*
 - Support priorities of the ***Our Children, Our Future Campaign to End Child Poverty in West Virginia***
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Health Care, Mental Health Care, Medicaid & Related Priorities

- Promote adequate funding for **WV Medicaid** and preserve **Medicaid Expansion**
 - Increase/apply **Taxes on tobacco, sugary soft drinks, etc.** Dedicate \$ to prevention, cessation, health care
 - **Keep WV's kids mentally and emotionally healthy** in their own communities
 - Require **public notice & comment** prior to submitting Medicaid state plan amendments or waiver changes
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Professional Social Work Priorities

- **Enhance safety measures** for Social Workers & other public employees at work & in the field
 - Work to meet recommended **Caseload Standards** in Child/Adult Protective Service, Youth Services
 - Offer nationally-certified **School Social Workers** the incentives enjoyed by other school professionals
 - Maintain strong **Social Work licensing regulations** to protect the public from unscrupulous practice
 - **WV DHHR Social Worker** career ladder, hiring incentives & salary enhancement for graduate education
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Economic & Social Justice Priorities

- **Protect WV's vital social infrastructure** supports through revenue enhancements
 - **Oppose efforts** to drug test those receiving public assistance, or to establish work requirements for eligibility/participation in Medicaid, SNAP or other public assistance programs
 - Create a **West Virginia Earned Income Tax Credit** program to help struggling low-income families
 - Fully implement/fund the **West Side of Charleston Revitalization & Transformation Initiative**
 - Reduce the risk of poverty by providing **Voluntary Employment Retirement Accounts**
 - Support the **Consensus Agenda on Disability Policy**
 - Promote and support passage of laws that promote **equality & social justice & celebrate diversity**
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