

Letter Template: Delete/edit the highlighted portions before you submit to SBUD.Committee@senate.ca.gov.

April 26, 2022

To: The Honorable Susan Talamantes Eggman
Chair, Senate Budget Subcommittee No. 3

Honorable Members
Senate Budget Subcommittee No. 3

RE: WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT: BUILD CAPACITY FOR
MASTERS OF SOCIAL WORK

Your Organization Name requests your support to increase the number, and diversity of, of master's level social workers (MSW) in California to serve vulnerable populations, including abused and neglected children served by county child welfare and older adults served by adult protective service (APS) programs. The National Association of Social Workers, California Chapter, in addition to other state-level advocates have submitted a thoughtful and focused proposal to increase the number of social workers from graduate programs and I respectfully request your support in its adoption into the state budget.

Organization Name provides critical [services] to [community service area and/or populations]. Add additional statements about your mission and why increasing the social work workforce is pivotal to the services you provide.

MSW-level social workers are critical staff for delivering services across many diverse sectors and programs that impact virtually every Californian. MSW-level staff are especially critical in many publicly funded programs including in child welfare, foster care, APS, mental health, education, hospitals and school-based settings. Despite the increasing demand for MSW-level professionals, there are simply too few social workers coming through the education system.

We appreciate the Administration's attention to workforce needs and the specific attention to increasing social workers statewide. We ask you consider the aforementioned proposal to set aside of funding to the accredited schools of social work to enable those schools to immediately enroll additional students into MSW programs. Our recommendations include:

- An initial funding level of \$30 million per year, for two years (\$60 million total), to the schools of social work.
- Appropriation of \$1 million for an assessment by the California Health and Human Services Agency (CalHHS) in coordination with representatives of the California State University and

the Regents of the University of California and in consultation with stakeholders, to determine the statewide needs for expanding MSW program capacity.

- Increase supports to county agencies and community-based non-profit organizations to provide field internships, with additional support for MSW students from under-represented communities through educational stipends.
- Require CalHHS to commission a follow up study to the SB 2030 (Chapter 785, Statutes of 1998) child welfare workload study.

Over a two-year period, the above proposal would invest \$118 million SGF to increase the number of master's level social workers in California.

As the Administration and Legislature consider workforce-related investments to support vulnerable populations, we encourage a focus on increasing the number of MSW-level graduates that will not only address the pipeline issues, but have broader reaching impact in all of health and human services.

Thank you for your consideration and leadership.

Sincerely,

Name

Position

Affiliation

Email