

11/10/2023

Dear Congress Member Josh Harder,

On behalf of the National Association of Social Workers (NASW) California-Chapter, we would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude for your advocacy and commitment to healing our community. We were so excited and grateful to read that California State University Stanislaus has been awarded a generous appropriation of 1.6 million dollars to expand its social work department.

This investment is truly a game-changer for the social work profession and will have a profound impact on mental health accessibility in our community. As a community we must always work to ensure that services in communities that have historically suffered from disinvestment and lack accessibility are prioritized in every conversation surrounding mental health care. With this funding, the university will be able to expand its social work program, allowing more students to pursue this important field and help close the gap in mental health services.

Furthermore, we are delighted to learn that social work interns will now be entitled to paid internships and stipends. This is a significant step towards recognizing the value and importance of the work that social work interns contribute to the community. By providing financial support to these interns, we can attract and retain talented individuals who are passionate about making a difference in the lives of those in need.

Your dedication to investing in the social work profession is commendable. The social work workforce is significantly understaffed, and this investment will undoubtedly contribute to building a stronger and more capable workforce. By expanding the social work department and providing financial support to interns, we are creating a pathway for future social workers to enter the field and make a lasting impact on the lives of individuals and families in our community.

Once again, we express our deepest gratitude for your unwavering support. Your commitment to improving mental health accessibility and addressing the staffing shortage in the social work profession is truly exemplary. We look forward to witnessing the positive outcomes that this investment will bring to our community.

Thank you, Congress Member Josh Harder, for your dedication and advocacy. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me personally if there is anything you need to continue this momentum in transforming mental health services, practice, and services. The California chapter in collaboration with the National Association of Social Workers (national association) is committed to improving the emotional wellbeing within our country, social justice and creating a diverse social work workforce that exemplifies our country.

Sincerely,

*Kimberly Warmesley, MSW LCSW*