

Legislative Scorecard for the 2008 Legislative Session

The National Association of Social Workers, California Chapter (NASW-CA) is proud to release our 2008 Legislative Scorecard. NASW-CA represents over 12,000 professional social workers who have degrees from accredited social work programs. NASW-CA advocates on behalf of our members and their clients, for the implementation and improvement of programs and policies designed to enhance human well-being and help meet the basic needs of all people. For more information on the NASW-CA policy priorities, please visit www.naswca.org.

Methodology

This analysis is based on the final floor votes cast on these selected measures. If a final Floor vote was not available, in some cases a previous Committee hearing vote or voting record was substituted. Legislators who were officially absent for a vote did not have their vote included in the rating. The Governor's rating is based on whether he signed or vetoed the measure. Please note that these bills are a subset of the bills on NASW-CA's priority list for 2008. They do not constitute all of the bills NASW-CA took a position on in 2008.

Summary of the Legislation

AB 437 (Jones) Employment Discrimination

This bill would ensure that victims of pay discrimination continue to have a fair opportunity to seek redress in the courts for violations of state law by clarifying that the time period for filing a pay discrimination claim runs from the date of each payment of a discriminatory wage.

NASW-CA Position: Support

Outcome: Vetoed by Governor

AB 531 (Salas) Mendez v. Westminster

This bill will allow for the inclusion of the *Mendez v. Westminster* case into the Department of Education's curriculum framework for primary and secondary levels of education, ensuring that future generations of Californians will learn about our states' role in ending educational segregation.

NASW-CA Position: Support

Outcome: Vetoed by Governor

AB 1887 (Beall) Mental Health Services

This bill requires a health care service plan and health insurance policy to provide coverage for the diagnosis and medically necessary treatment of a mental illness of a person of any age, including a child. It defines mental illness as a mental disorder defined in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual IV and includes substance abuse in the covered benefits under this bill.

NASW-CA Position: Support

Outcome: Vetoed by Governor

AB 2543 (Berg) Geriatric and Gerontology Workforce Expansion Act

This bill will create a loan repayment program for licensed health care professionals who specialize in working with our aging population for 3 years.

NASW-CA Position: Support, Co-Sponsor

Outcome: Vetoed by Governor

AB 2753 (Solorio) State Worker Social Worker Title Protections

This bill will reserve the title of social worker to state employees who hold a degree in social work from an accredited University.

NASW-CA Position: Support, Co-Sponsor

Outcome: We were able to achieve the results of AB 2753 without creating a new law. NASW and AFSCME approached the State Personnel Board and SPB discontinued the State Job Classifications that were titled "Social Worker" and did not require a degree in social work. Currently, all State Job Classifications titled "Social Worker" require a social work degree from an accredited University.

AB 2747 (Berg) California Right to Know End-of-Life Act of 2008

This bill allows terminally-ill patients an opportunity to obtain information about their end of life care choices.

NASW-CA Position: Support

Outcome: Signed into law by Governor

AB 3015 (Brownley) Foster Youth School Safety Education

This bill will ensure that foster youth, social workers, foster parents, relative caregivers and other child welfare professionals be educated on the current law with regards to protecting students from discrimination and harassment in California's schools.

NASW-CA Position: Support, Co-Sponsor

Outcome: Signed into law by Governor

SB 60 (Cedillo) Driver's Licenses

This bill requires California to issue a "driving only license" to an applicant who does not meet the minimum issuance standards of the Federal Real ID Act.

NASW-CA Position: Support

Outcome: Vetoed by Governor

SB 489 (Steinberg) Continuing Care Contracts: Retirement Communities: Closure

This bill would protect elders by placing new requirements on Continuing Care Retirement Community (CCRC) providers such as defining closure to establish circumstances for Department of Social Services intervention, create detailed closure and relocation plans for each level of care, specify timeframes and advanced notice of closure to residents, and prohibit closure or relocation until the requirements are met.

NASW-CA Position: Support

Outcome: Vetoed by Governor

SB 840 (Kuehl) Universal Health Care Act

Would implement a single-payer universal health care system covering all Californians with health insurance.

NASW-CA Position: Support

Outcome: Vetoed by Governor

California State Legislature

Governor		Party	District	AB 437 Employment Discrimination	AB 531 Mendez v. Westminster	AB 1887 Mental Health Services	AB 2543 Workforce Expansion Act	AB 2747 Right to Know End-of-Life	SB 60 Driver's Licenses	SB 489 Continuing Care Contracts	SB 840 Universal Health Care Act	RATING	
Schwarzenegger	Arnold	R	N/A	V	V	V	V	S	S	V	V	V	22%
Senator Name													
Aanestad	Sam	R	4	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	0%
Ackerman	Dick	R	33	N	N	N	N	N	N	N*	N	N	0%
Alquist	Elaine	D	13	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100%
Ashburn	Roy	R	18	N	N	N*	N	N	N	N	N	N	0%
Battin	Jim	R	37	N	NV	N	NV	N	N	N	N	N	0%
Calderon	Ronald	D	30	N	**	NV	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	75%
Cedillo	Gil	D	22	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100%
Cogdill	Dave	R	14	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	0%
Corbett	Ellen	D	10	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100%
Correa	Lou	D	34	Y	Y	Y	N	NV	Y	Y	Y	N*	75%
Cox	Dave	R	1	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	0%
Denham	Jeff	R	12	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	11%
Ducheny	Denise	D	40	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100%
Dutton	Bob	R	31	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	0%
Florez	Dean	D	16	Y	NV	Y	Y	N	Y	Y*	Y	Y	75%
Harman	Tom	R	35	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	11%
Hollingsworth	Dennis	R	36	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	0%
Kehoe	Christine	D	39	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100%
Kuehl	Sheila	D	23	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100%
Lowenthal	Alan	D	27	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100%
Machado	Mike	D	5	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	NV	75%
Maldonado	Abel	R	15	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	NV	N	11%
Margett	Bob	R	29	N	Y	NV	N	N	N	N	N	N	11%
McClintock	Tom	R	19	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	0%
Migden	Carol	D	3	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y*	Y	Y	Y	100%
Negrete McLeod	Gloria	D	32	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100%
Oropeza	Jenny	D	28	Y	**	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y*	Y	Y	100%
Padilla	Alex	D	20	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100%
Perata	Don	D	9	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100%
Ridley-Thomas	Mark	D	26	Y	Y	Y*	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100%
Romero	Gloria	D	24	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100%
Runner	George	R	17	N	N	NV	N	N	N	N	N	N	0%
Scott	Jack	D	21	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100%
Simitian	Joe	D	11	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y*	Y	Y	Y	100%
Steinberg	Darrell	D	6	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100%
Torlakson	Tom	D	7	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y*	Y	Y	Y	100%
Vincent	Edward	D	25	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	Y	**	100%
Wiggins	Patricia	D	2	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100%
Wyland	Mark	R	38	N	N	N	N	N	N	N*	N	N*	0%
Yee	Leland	D	8	N	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	77%

NV indicates Not Voting/Abstaining

* Indicates a substitute vote from previous Committee hearing or voting record

** Indicates an excused absence and is not counted in the rating

Assemblymember Name		Party	District	AB 437 Employment Discrimination	AB 531 Mendez v. Westminster	AB 1887 Mental Health Services	AB 2543 Workforce Expansion Act	AB 2753 State-SW Title Protections	AB 2747 Right to Know End-of-Life	SB 60 Driver's Licenses	SB 489 Continuing Care Contracts	SB 840 Universal Health Care Act	RATING
Jeffries	Kevin	R	66	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	0%
Jones	Dave	D	9	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100%
Karnette	Betty	D	54	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100%
Keene	Rick	R	3	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	0%
Krekorian	Paul	D	43	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100%
La Malfa	Doug	R	2	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	0%
Laird	John	D	27	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y*	Y	100%
Leno	Mark	D	13	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100%
Levine	Lloyd	D	40	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100%
Lieber	Sally	D	22	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100%
Lieu	Ted	D	53	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	90%
Ma	Fiona	D	12	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y*	Y	100%
Maze	Bill	R	34	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	0%
Mendoza	Tony	D	56	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100%
Mullin	Gene	D	19	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100%
Nakanishi	Alan	R	10	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	0%
Nava	Pedro	D	35	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	NV	Y	Y	90%
Niello	Roger	R	5	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	0%
Nunez	Fabian	D	46	Y	Y	Y	Y	**	Y	Y	Y	NV	88%
Parra	Nicole	D	30	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N	80%
Plescia	George	R	75	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	10%
Portantino	Anthony	D	44	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	NV	Y	Y	90%
Price	Curren	D	51	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100%
Runner	Sharon	R	36	NV	N*	N*	N*	N*	N	N*	NV	**	0%
Ruskin	Ira	D	21	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100%
Salas	Mary	D	79	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100%
Saldana	Lori	D	76	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y*	Y	100%
Silva	Jim	R	67	N	Y	N	N	**	N	N	N	N	11%
Smyth	Cameron	R	38	N	Y	N	N	NV	N	N	N	N	10%
Solorio	Jose	D	69	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y*	Y	100%
Soto	Nell	D	61	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	Excused Absences
Spitzer	Todd	R	71	N	Y	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	20%
Strickland	Audra	R	37	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	0%
Swanson	Sandre	D	16	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	90%
Torrico	Alberto	D	20	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100%
Tran	Van	R	68	N*	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N*	N	10%
Villines	Michael	R	29	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	0%
Walters	Mimi	R	73	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	0%
Wolk	Lois	D	8	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100%

NV indicates Not Voting/Abstaining

*Indicates a Substitute Vote from Previous Committee hearing or voting record

**Indicates an Excused Absence and is Not Counted in the Rating.

2008 Highlights – Bills Signed by the Governor

State Social Workers finally have Title Protections! In a bold move by the State Personnel Board, we can now say that all full-time state civil service jobs titled “Social Worker” require a social work degree from an accredited university!

Another priority for NASW-CA was AB 3015 (Brownley), the Foster Youth School Safety Education bill, which will ensure that foster youth, social workers, foster parents, relative caregivers and other child welfare professionals be educated on the current law with regards to protecting students from discrimination and harassment in California’s schools. On February 12, 2008 a 14 year-old boy entered a classroom at E.O. Green Junior High School in Oxnard, CA and shot a 15 year-old student named Lawrence “Larry” King in the head. Two days later, Larry was taken off life support. Larry self-identified as gay, sometimes wore make-up and feminine jewelry, and was the target of ridicule and bullying by some of his classmates, including the shooter. Larry was a foster youth who lived at a group home for abused and neglected children. Every day young people are subject to bullying or harassment based on sexual orientation or gender identity and expression. Foster youth are more vulnerable to harassment by nature of their familial status and often times, their caregivers are not aware of the existence of education law that protects students from such harassment at their schools. AB 3015 will insure that foster youth and their caregivers are knowledgeable about how to report and prevent harassment and violence not only in their homes, but in their schools. We are thrilled that the Legislature passed and the Governor signed this measure and look forward to its implementation.

2008 Disappointments - Bills Vetoed by the Governor

The largest disappointment during the 2008 legislative session was the vetoing of AB 2543 (Berg), the Geriatric and Gerontology Workforce Expansion Act, which would have established a student loan forgiveness program. The program did not use any state money and was funded through license fees. NASW-CA is committed to working with the Governor and others to ensure we have an adequate social work workforce as we move into the future.

2009 Hopes and Dreams – NASW-CA Priorities

The fiscal picture in 2009 is all but dismal, with a projected multibillion dollar deficit, whose solution lies on the shoulders of the most underrepresented Californians. NASW-CA will fight hard to ensure our clients do not become the scapegoat to our state’s revenue problem. Legislatively, NASW-CA will be looking at ways to preserve professional social work services, remove barriers to mental health delivery and attain civil rights for all Californians.

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