



TSCSW Legislative Fund

Colleagues,

The Texas Society for Clinical Social Work (TSCSW) Legislative Fund provides members ongoing legal assistance and lobbyist representation through the offices of Mark Hanna. Since 1992 Mark Hanna has been TSCSW's lobbyist with the Texas Legislature and respective state agencies responsible for policies related to health care, insurance coverage and protection of consumers of social work services in Texas.

TSCSW is the Voice of Clinical Social Work in Texas. Since 1972, TSCSW has been the primary moving force behind legislation related to legal regulation of clinical social work practice and has actively participated in the rule-making process of the Texas State Licensing Board of Social Work Examiners (TSBSWE). TSCSW thru its Governmental Affairs Committee is in liaison with TSBSWE, NASW/Texas, Mental Health America, Legislative Coalition for Mental Health, and the professional associations of physicians, psychiatrists, psychologists, nurses, marriage and family therapists and professional counselors in Texas.

TSCSW Board requests your contribution to these ongoing initiatives.

Generally, in even-numbered years when the Texas Legislature is not in session, our costs related to maintaining a health care lobbyist are minimal. This was not the case in 2014/ 2016 nor will it be in 2018. Mark Hanna and Governmental Affairs Chair, Kathy Rider, are already working on the Sunset Review process which will hopefully culminate in the Texas Legislature re-authorizing legal regulation of social work in Texas. All the health care professional boards in Texas are included in this Sunset Review process.

The Sunset Review process began in Spring 2014. The Sunset Staff of The Sunset Advisory Commission made recommendations to change our licensing board to an advisory committee in the TDRL without rule-making authority. TSCSW submitted written comments. NASW/Texas chose to be neutral about the staff's recommendations. TSCSW worked for TSBSWE to remain at DSHS and stay an independent board appointed by the Governor with rule-making authority. The Sunset Advisory Commission voted on August 13, 2014 to keep TSBSWE, the LPCs and the LMFTs at DSHS as independent boards pending further review of the organizational structure of DSHS in the Fall 2014. These boards were moved to Health and Human Services Council.

The Texas Legislature returned in 2017. The Sunset Advisory Commission recommended that the behavioral health professional boards continue to be Governor appointed independent boards with rule-making authority and to be housed in a re-constituted agency named The Behavioral Health Executive Council. A Mental Health Coalition with social workers, professional counselors, marriage and family therapists and psychologists was formed to support the sunset recommended legislation. The regular and special legislative sessions ended without the re-authorization of legal regulation for behavioral health. The Sunset Advisory Commission again reviewed and made recommendations for the 2019 Legislature.

Your donation to the TSCSW Legislative Fund will ensure continuation of clinical social work service to our diverse client populations in Texas. Please make your check out to TSCSW and send to Kathy T. Rider, LCSW, BCD, 3724 Jefferson, Ste 206 Austin, Texas 78731. It is tax-deductible.

\$150 \$125 \$100 \$75 \$50 \$25 Other