

AAUW Texas Statement of support for the National Association of Social Workers



AAUW Texas is proud to stand with the National Association of Social Workers of Texas (NASW/TX) as they work to protect all vulnerable peoples in their care from new policies of the state government. In a meeting with Governor Greg Abbott, the Texas State Board of Social Workers last week voted unanimously to remove disability, sexual orientation and gender identity from the nondiscrimination clause of its code of conduct. These changes are a direct violation of the Social Workers Code of Ethics.

For far too long, the civil rights protections guaranteed to millions of Americans have been denied to those who identify as disabled or LGBTQ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer or questioning). AAUW's [Public Policy Priorities](#) affirm our commitment to “vigorous protection of and full access to civil and constitutional rights,” and to “freedom in definition of family and guarantee of civil rights in all family structures.” AAUW opposes discrimination on the basis of race, ethnicity, gender, class, orientation and ability. The Governor and the State Board made changes to the protections of these people without consultation with or consent of NASW of Texas.

AAUW Texas and NASW/TX call on the Governor to rescind his overreach into the Code of Conduct for social workers, and encourages the Behavioral Health Executive Council (BHEC), the agency that houses the TSBSWE, to work with the board to reinstate these protections for persons with disability, sexual orientation, and gender identity and gender expression.

Gloria Long, AAUW Texas State President AAUWTX@gmail.com

Will Francis, LMSW, Executive Director, National Association of Social Workers – Texas Chapter wfrancis.naswtx@socialworkers.org

Lynn Hagan, LCSW

To learn more about this issue and find ways to help reverse these changes click on this link:

<https://www.naswtx.org/news/531231/Code-of-Conduct-Ruling-Resources--Updates.htm>