

Social Work Licensing Bill Introduced (A.5989-A/S.4979)

On March 7, 1995, Assemblypersons Catherine T. Nolan (Queens) James F. Brennan (Brooklyn) and Samuel Colman (Rockland) introduced our social work licensing bill in the New York State Assembly (A.5989-A). Senator Thomas W. Libous (Broome, Tioga, Chenago) introduced the bill in the Senate on May 3, 1995 (S.4979).

For the first time since the Clinical Society Legislative Committee began working on this project more than five years ago, licensing legislation, which is fully supported by the social work community, has been introduced into both houses of the legislature.

Our next step is to attract as many legislators as possible to cosponsor this bill. The greater the number of co-sponsors, the greater the demonstration of support for our bill.

Toward this end, your chapter legislative chairperson will be visiting local legislators in their home offices to educate them about the social work profession where necessary and to ask for their support for our bill. It is vital that Clinical Society members who have a rela-

tionship or contact with local legislators call their chapter legislative chairperson immediately to help strategize this campaign. Please see accompanying box for information.

The Legislative Committee is working collaboratively with other professional social work organizations to make the widest statewide search for support. Once the cosponsors have been identified we will ask you to then write to your local representatives thanking them for their sponsorship. We will also be looking for endorsements from business, other professional individuals and groups as well as social agencies and psychotherapy institutes.

Stay tuned.

Legislative Update

Managed Care Legislation:

The NYSSCSW is actively supporting S.4188 (Veleva, Hannon)/A.6800 (Grannis, Gottfried), an act to amend the insurance law and the public health law to establish standards for the quality of care consumers receive from managed care plans, provide consumers with the information they need to make informed decisions or challenge unfair determinations, and to set

uniform standards for certain problems areas which frequently result in disputes between consumers, providers and managed care plans. There has been an intensive campaign, highlighted by a Health Care Bill of Rights,

to support these bills for quality and choice.

This is one of several bills which have been introduced this year. Best information indicates that none will pass this year. However, next year is an election year and those who know believe some managed care reform will be passed.

Toward this end, we need documentation about managed care abuses.

If you have an experience which will demonstrate the need for reforming managed care, please — sit down and write a description of what has happened to you or to your patient. Send your story to:

Marsha Wineburgh,
263 West End Avenue, #1F,
New York, New York 10023.

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Chapter Legislative Chairs

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