

**ANSWER Coalition**  
**Social Work Reinvestment Initiative**  
**Video Advocacy Message**  
**Jeane Anastas Remarks**  
**September 15, 2008**

Hello, my name is Jeane Anastas and I serve as the Convener to the Action Network for Social Work Education and Research known as ANSWER. Our mission is to increase legislative and executive branch advocacy on behalf of social work education, training, and research. This goal is accomplished through collaboration among important stakeholder groups including the Association of Baccalaureate Programs Directors, Council on Social Work Education, Group for the Advancement of Doctoral Education, Institute for the Advancement of Social Work Research, National Association of Deans and Directors, National Association of Social Workers, and the Society for Social Work and Research.

The ANSWER Coalition serves as the steering committee for the Social Work Reinvestment Initiative. We are coordinating efforts to recruit, retain, and retrain social workers in order to build healthy families and communities. With the assistance of legislators, policymakers, employers, social workers, and a host of other stakeholders, the initiative seeks to secure federal and state investments in professional social work.

The cornerstone of this initiative is the Dorothy I. Height and Whitney M. Young, Jr. Social Work Reinvestment Act. This legislation will chart a new course for our profession, as it will address the low salaries that social workers earn; the high educational debt that make this profession a difficult choice for many; the safety concerns that drive students to other professions; and the lack of a robust social work research base. This bill will benefit all social workers and will ensure that we can continue to provide direct services to clients as well as

conduct valuable research, teach important social work knowledge and skills, and advocate for those we serve.