



We, the undersigned professional social work organizations, join with the National Association of Social Workers (NASW) in showing our full support for the *Dorothy I. Height and Whitney M. Young, Jr. Social Work Reinvestment Act*. Social workers provide indispensable services in nearly every community nationwide and to millions of Americans including aging baby boomers, wounded veterans, former prisoners, at-risk students, abused and neglected children, and those diagnosed with cancer, serious mental illness, and those with HIV and AIDS. These essential services have a positive impact on the mental, social, and psychosocial functioning of clients across the country. While professional social workers are more necessary today than at any other time in our history, they are also facing barriers that challenge the profession including insurmountable education debt, insufficient salaries, and serious safety concerns.

The *Dorothy I. Height and Whitney M. Young, Jr. Social Work Reinvestment Act* takes important steps to ensure the future viability of the social work profession. The legislation explores the many successful efforts already undertaken by our nation's social workers, while examining the persistent challenges to these efforts. A Social Work Reinvestment Commission will provide a comprehensive analysis of current workforce trends and develop long-term recommendations and strategies to maximize the ability of America's social workers to serve their clients with expertise and care. Demonstration programs will be funded in the areas of workplace improvements, research, education and training, and community-based programs of excellence. This investment will be returned many times over both in support for effective social service solutions and in direct services to client populations.

The *Dorothy I. Height and Whitney M. Young, Jr. Social Work Reinvestment Act* is a commitment to ensure that social workers can provide indispensable services for years to come. The future of the profession depends on the measures that are taken toward reinvestment today. We thank Senator Mikulski for her dedication to and leadership of the social work profession and urge every member of the Senate to show their support for professional social workers as well as the individuals, groups, and communities they serve.

Sincerely,

Action Network for Social Work Education and Research

Association of Baccalaureate Social Work Program Directors

Association of Oncology Social Work

750 First Street NE, Suite 700, Washington DC 20002-4241

(202) 408-8600 FAX (202) 336-8310 www.socialworkers.org

Clinical Social Work Association

Council on Social Work Education

Group for the Advancement of Doctoral Education in Social Work

Institute for the Advancement of Social Work Research

National Association of Deans and Directors of Schools of Social Work

Social Welfare Action Alliance

Society for Social Work and Research