



# COUNCIL ON SOCIAL WORK EDUCATION

STRENGTHENING THE PROFESSION OF SOCIAL WORK

*Leadership in Research, Career Advancement, and Education*

1701 Duke Street, Suite 200, Alexandria, VA 22314

TEL 703.683.8080

FAX 703.683.8099

www.cswe.org

The Honorable Allyson Y. Schwartz  
United States House of Representatives  
1227 Longworth Building  
Washington, DC 20515

November 14, 2012

Dear Representative Schwartz:

On behalf of the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE), I would like to congratulate you on your reelection to the United States House of Representatives. I would also like to thank you for your ongoing support for policies and programs important to the social work education community. You are a true friend to social work. As you embark on your important duties in the 113<sup>th</sup> Congress, I hope you will look to CSWE as a partner on federal issues relating to education and health care, such as federal student aid programs, accreditation policy, and health profession workforce development.

In addition, enclosed for your information is a *Shared Agenda for Social Work Education*, which was recently prepared by CSWE and partners in the social work education community. This report offers 17 recommendations for how federal policy makers can enhance the social work profession and thereby address the social, health, and behavioral health needs of all Americans. For example, we recommend the implementation of the recommendations made in the Institute of Medicine (IOM) report, *The Mental Health and Substance Use Workforce for Older Adults: In Whose Hands?* to address the growing need to include mental health and substance use in geriatric care training and delivery. I hope you will find this resource helpful as you face tough policy decisions in the 113th Congress.

As you know, CSWE ([www.CSWE.org](http://www.CSWE.org)) was founded in 1952 as a national nonprofit association representing more than 2,500 individual members and over 700 graduate and undergraduate programs of professional social work education. CSWE is recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation as the sole accrediting agency for social work education in the United States.

We look forward to working with you in the 113<sup>th</sup> Congress. Please do not hesitate to contact me or my government relations representative (Wendy Naus, [Wendy@lewis-burke.com](mailto:Wendy@lewis-burke.com), 202-289-7475) if you have any questions or if we can be of assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Darla Spence Coffey'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Darla Spence Coffey