

# Written Testimony for U.S. House of Representatives Fiscal Year 2010

**Subject:** Funding in FY2010

**Venue:** Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies, Committee on Appropriations, U.S. Hou

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Official Written Testimony for Fiscal Year 2010

Submitted to the Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies

Committee on Appropriations  
United States House of Representatives  
May 1, 2009

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On behalf of the Council on Social Work Education, I am pleased to offer this written testimony to the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies for inclusion in the official committee record. I will focus my testimony on two topics: fostering a skilled, sustainable and diverse social work workforce through training and financial support programs at the Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of Education, and growth for behavioral and social science research at the National Institutes of Health.

The Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) is a nonprofit national association representing more than 3,000 individual members as well as 650 graduate and undergraduate programs of professional social work education. Founded in 1952, this partnership of educational and professional institutions, social welfare agencies, and private citizens is recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) as the sole accrediting agency for social work education in the United States. Social work education focuses students on leadership and direct practice roles helping individuals, families, groups, and communities by creating new opportunities that empower people to be productive, contributing members of their communities.

Vulnerable populations from all walks of life—defined here as children and adults with physical or mental disabilities, those living in poverty, trauma victims, aging individuals, returning veterans, individuals under stress or facing coping challenges both temporary and permanent, and segments of society needing assistance to adjust to changing circumstances or overcome injustices—are faced with hurdles which for some cannot be overcome alone. Social workers help vulnerable populations in society be as healthy and productive as possible by working with them to navigate societal and personal challenges. Social workers are employed in schools, hospitals, VA facilities, rehabilitation centers, social service locations, child welfare organizations, assisted living centers, nursing homes, and faith-based organizations. See *attache* file for complete text.