



THE UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT
 SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK
 THE NANCY A. HUMPHREYS INSTITUTE
 FOR
 POLITICAL SOCIAL WORK



2009 Legislative Scoop Sheet

Volume 11. Issue 5 ~ March 24, 2009 Katharine Bobel and Nilda Fernandez Editors

From the Editor's Desk ~ by *Katharine Bobel and Nilda Fernandez*

Welcome Back from Spring Break! We hope you all had an enjoyable break! The Legislature is still very actively hard at work. We would like to remind you that if there is an issue that you care about, to please contact your State Senators and State Representatives as well as members on the particular committee following the bill you are interested in. We have some exciting upcoming events to continue Social Work month. We hope you can attend them.

Upcoming Events

The 13th Annual Campaign School: Friday, April 17th and Saturday, April 18th from 9:00am-4:00pm. Come learn how to create effective campaign strategies and run successful political campaigns from experienced and knowledgeable social workers. This year's faculty includes well-known political social workers such as: **Kate Coyne-McCoy, Nancy A. Humphreys, newly elected Social Workers: Hartford Registrar of Voters, Urania Petit and State Representative, Chris Lyddy,** plus other Political Social Workers.

The 1st Annual Jane Addams Forum on Electoral Reform: Wednesday April 1st from 12:30pm-2:00pm. Program is free but space is limited. To r.s.v.p or for more info, contact the NAHISPW at 860-570-9262 or send an email to politicalinstitute@uconn.edu

SB 15 "An Act Providing In-State Tuition to Children of Immigrants" ~ by Nilda Fernandez

To date nothing has been presented in the Joint Committee on Higher Education and Employment Advancement on the in-state tuition. You may contact your legislator or the Joint Committee at 240-0280 with questions or concerns.

24/7 Staffing at Domestic Violence Shelters ~ by Robin Kraemer

This past Thursday, March 19th, CCADV held their Domestic Violence Awareness Day event at the Capitol Building. Over 100 supporters attended and were able to speak with their legislators about domestic violence issues before and after the briefing session. Due to the budget deficit, CCADV is still speaking about the need for 24/7 staffing at domestic violence shelters, but is focusing on other legislative issues as well. One important bill is **HB 6494 AN ACT CONCERNING TEEN DATING VIOLENCE EDUCATION.** If passed, this would ensure that students at public schools are taught early on about healthy relationships and avoiding dating violence. This bill is currently in the Education Committee, and a public hearing was held on 02/23.

Multi-Level Licensure ~ by Sarah Chasse

H.B. 6676 An Act Concerning Clinical Social Workers was well represented at a Public Health Committee Public Hearing on Monday, March 16, 2009. Social work professionals and students advocated on behalf of the bill, which must be voted out of The Public Health Committee by their JF Deadline of March 27th. Thank you to UCONN SSW's own Kathleen O'Mahoney, Jule Heike Michel, Regina Grant, and Associate Professor Lirio K. Negroni, Ph.D for joining our Executive Director, Steve Karp with testimony. Please contact your Legislators in favor of this bill, and refer to the NASW/CT website for updated fact sheets.

Electoral Reform ~ by Addie Sandler

There is nothing new to report on regarding **HB 5012 AN ACT IMPLEMENTING EARLY VOTING IN CONNECTICUT** as well as on **HB 5082 AN ACT CONCERNING ELECTION DAY REGISTRATION.**



Happy Social Work Month!



Establishing a Sexual Assault Forensic Examiners Program ~ by Kate Parker

HB 6361: An Act Concerning the Establishment of a Sexual Assault Forensic Examiners Program.

There has been considerable movement on the SANE/SAFE bill this month. The bill has been voted out of the Public Health Committee with a joint favorable substitute changing the funding mechanism of the program from the General Fund to the Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund. The Public Health Committee voted in favor of the bill with 30 yeas, 0 nays, and 1 member absent. The bill has been reported out of the Legislative Commissioner's Office and awaits its next process with the Appropriations Committee.

Same Sex Marriage- ~ by Caryn Lacedonia

SB 899 "An Act Concerning the Guarantee of Equal Protections Under the Constitution of the State of Same-Sex Couples", was referred to the Joint Committee on Judiciary as of 2/11/09. This "clean-up" bill addresses issues that were not ruled on by the CT Supreme Court in *Kerrigan et al vs. Ct Department of Public Health*, such as civil unions. If passed, S.B. 899 would merge all civil unions into marriages on 10/01/10. Couples with a civil union who merged into a marriage in 2010 will have a marriage date that is reflective of the date of their previous civil union.

Hearings and Events at the Legislative Office Building (LOB)

Don't forget to check the "Bulletin" online at <http://www.cga.ct.gov> for full details on daily hearings, events, committee meetings, and contact information.

Also be sure to check out <http://www.ctn.state.ct.us/> to view live events and archived resources on the CT Network.

NAHIPSW Resources

As always, feel free to contact us at the NAHIPSW with any information related questions regarding the legislative process, testifying, finding your legislators or questions related to legislation that is of interest to you or your clients.

Affordable/Supportive Housing ~ by Katharine Bobel

On March 10th the Housing Committee had a Joint Favorable Change of Reference to the Finance, Revenue, and Bonding Committee. Written in the Joint Favorable Report was the reason for the bill which states, to provide \$35 million in funding for the Connecticut Housing Finance Authority's Supportive Housing Initiative. A Joint Favorable Change of Reference is an action by which one committee refers a bill to another committee with a recommendation favoring the bill's passage. Also on March 10th HB 5071 was filed with the Legislative Commissioner's Office (LCO). When a bill is filed with the Legislative Commissioner's Office (LCO) it indicates that a committee has sent the bill to the LCO for transmittal to either another committee or to the Senate or House floor. On March 16th this bill was reported out of the Legislative Commissioner's Office and was sent to both the House and Senate for a Favorable Change of Reference to the Finance, Revenue, and Bonding Committee. This bill is currently in the Finance, Revenue, and Bonding Committee.



Universal Healthcare ~ by Courtney Cullinan

Senate Bill 678, **To provide affordable, quality health care to state residents** was heard at a public hearing in front of the Public Health Committee on March 16th, 2009. There was a good deal of support for the bill. The Public Health's Committee JF (joint favorable) deadline is next Friday March 27th, 2009. It is very important for you to call the committee and ask that they vote on the bill. The Public Health Committee can be reached at 860-240-0560.



Nancy A. Humphreys Institute for Political Social Work

University of Connecticut School of Social Work
1798 Asylum Avenue, West Hartford, CT 06117
Phone: (860) 570-9262 Fax: (860) 570-9133
E-mail: politicalinstitute@uconn.edu
Web: <http://www.politicalinstitute.uconn.edu>