

November 28, 2011

The Honorable Gwen Moore  
US House of Representatives  
2245 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Moore:

The National Association of Social Workers (NASW), the largest professional social work organization in the country, with 145,000 members nationwide, supports your legislation, RISE Out of Poverty Act. NASW's commitment to eliminating poverty is rooted in the mission and core values of the social work profession. These core values, which include social justice and belief in the dignity and worth of each person, have been embraced by social workers throughout the profession's history and are the foundation of social work's purpose and perspective.

The RISE Out of Poverty Act would focus on reducing child poverty by permanently authorizing the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program as a funding stream for subsidized employment, and revise the work participation rules for families receiving cash assistance.

NASW supports economic reform that restores the safety net and promotes assistance in obtaining employment, promoting a universal social welfare system and addressing problems that contribute to poverty. TANF provides basic cash assistance to families who live well below the federal poverty level. It is a safety net program that meets the needs of the nation's most vulnerable people and helps with the reduction of poverty.

NASW deeply appreciates your commitment to addressing childhood poverty and TANF and looks forward to working with you to enact this important legislation.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth J. Clark, PhD, ACSW, MPH  
Executive Director