

Fwd: CSWE Responses to Executive Order 13769



Dear Colleagues,

It is tempting to characterize the executive order affecting travel, immigration, and refugees issued by President Trump last Friday as "unprecedented," but for many it is a painful reminder of policies and actions that we had thought were securely part of our past. That being said, the reactions that the order has triggered across the country – and the world – have been both impressive and comforting. As much as this executive action is cause for grave concern, the strong response in support of those affected has been heartening.

At CSWE, we pay particular attention to how these actions impact social work programs; our community of social work educators, staff members, and students; and the clients and communities we serve. We applaud and join programs that have taken this opportunity to affirm their commitment to the values of the social work profession, specifically inclusiveness and social justice. We also stand with our professional association, NASW, in its statement. For CSWE and at the national level, we have sought ways to join other professional education groups in communicating our opposition to the executive order and shared concerns about its effects. This week, CSWE signed on to letters from the American Council on Education, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and a coalition of health professional education associations. Furthermore, we endorse the statements or letters from the Association of American Universities, the Association of Public & Land-Grant Universities, and the International Association of Schools of Social Work. We will continue to monitor the situation, look for opportunities to act, and collaborate with allies.

We are also creating resources about these issues to support members. In March, the CSWE Learning Academy will host a webinar titled "How should social work education respond to the changing political landscape?" This webinar will be archived for viewing on demand afterward, and curricular and other materials will be available to support teaching and learning. The webinar and materials will be created by Dr. Yolanda Padilla, director of the CSWE Center for Diversity and Social & Economic Justice. Look for additional information about this webinar in the coming weeks.

Also, at this year's Spring Governance meeting on March 23, 2017, CSWE will host a panel discussion titled: "Individual Freedoms, Social Justice, Civil Liberties, and the Federal Government: A Dialogue on Preparing Social Workers for the Next 4 Years." Panelists will explore the impact of federal executive actions and policymaking on the individual freedoms, social justice, and civil liberties of social workers and the communities they serve. We are still developing the panel, but we hope to have representatives from the legal, congressional, and advocacy communities. Although Spring Governance is the dedicated time for CSWE commissions to meet and conduct their business, we will videotape this panel and make it available for all members following the event.

Once again, thank you for your partnership, encouragement and steadiness during this time of disruption and uncertainty.

Dava Spence Coffey

Ballona W. Shonk

Darla Spence Coffey, PhD, MSW

President and CEO

Barbara W. Shank, PhD, MSW Chair, Board of Directors