
National Association of Social Workers - Rhode Island Chapter
2008 Legislative Agenda
As of 4/2/08

*“When we tug on a single thing in nature,
we find it attached to everything else.”*

John Muir

“Why has government been instituted at all?”

*“Because the passions of men will not conform to
the dictates of reason and justice, without constraint.”*

Alexander Hamilton (1788)

This document is a work in progress subject to change at any time during the 2008 Rhode Island legislative session. The agenda covers legislative submissions to the Rhode Island General Assembly only and may not include all state legislation that NASW - RI works on during the session. In general, NASW - RI is concerned with legislation that relates to social and economic justice, civil rights, public education, healthcare and/or other areas deemed to be of concern to social workers and those they serve. Any comments, corrections, and/or concerns should be directed to Rick Harris, LICSW, Executive Director (NASW - RI).

Special thanks to NASW - RI representatives: **Michael Allain (Providence College)**, **Gabrielle Doran (Rhode Island College)**, **Morgan Fuchs (Rhode Island College)**, **Courtney Haile (Salve Regina University)**, **Charles Plungis (Providence College)**, **Sarah Rossi (Salve Regina University)**, **Ryan Todd (Providence College)**, and **Deneysel Tracey (Rhode Island College)** for the many hours of work putting this document together.

All opinions expressed in this document are the sole responsibility of the Executive Director and does not necessary represent the opinions of all NASW - RI members. Positions may change based on additional information and/or analysis.

In order to post this large and labor intensive document in a timely fashion, limited attention has been paid to grammatical and sentence editing.

☆☆☆ HOUSE ☆☆☆

H – 7003

BY: Carter, Gallison, Moffitt, and Scott

ENTITLED: House Resolution Extending the Expiration Date of the Special House Commission to Study Potential Administrative and Functional Improvements at the Rhode Island Veterans Home This resolution would extend the expiration date of the special house commission to study potential administrative and functional improvements at the Rhode Island Veterans Home from January 2, 2008 to July 1, 2008.

Executive Director’s Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose X Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

NASW-RI is monitoring, no analysis has been developed at this time.

H – 7014

BY: Gemma, Schadone, Singleton, Picard, and Rice

ENTITLED: An Act Relating to Education -- Health and Safety of Pupils

Executive Director’s Recommendation

X Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

This act would require school departments to develop policies and procedures for administering injections to diabetic students in the event of an emergency. The policy would include parent authorization and the training of school personnel. NASW-RI fully supports the health and safety of children with special medical needs in schools. The benefit involved in administering an emergency procedures in this case outweighs the risk.

H – 7015

BY: McNamara, Malik, Corvese, and Palumbo

ENTITLED: An Act Relating to Insurance – Accident and Sickness Insurance Policies

This act would prohibit health care insurers, nonprofit medical and hospital service corporations, and health maintenance organizations from requiring their subscribers to obtain prescriptions for double strength medication.

Executive Director’s Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor X More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

Is this advisable by physicians? Is there unacceptable risks involved? Is the bill too all inclusive?

H – 7019

BY: Representatives Mumford, Kilmartin, Ehrhardt, Savage, and Moffitt

ENTITLED: An Act Relating to Taxation – Estate and Transfer Taxes – Computation

Introduced January 02, 2008 and referred to House Finance

This act would exempt net estates valued at less than one million dollars from inheritance tax.

Executive Director’s Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

The act will exempt net estates valued at less than one million from inheritance taxation. This number seems high as the average house in RI costs substantially lower. With the current projected deficit in RI, this act seems misdirected.

H - 7020.

BY: Representatives Mumford, Savage, Kilmartin, Ekrhardt, Moffitt

ENTITLED: An Act Related to Taxation - Inheritance Tax

Introduced: January 02, 2008

Referred to House Finance

This Act would repeal the inheritance tax.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

See 7019.

H - 7021

BY: Representatives Carter, Gallison, Gemma, Moffitt, and Trillo

ENTITLED: **RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES- FAMILY INDEPENDENCE ACT**

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

This act would reduce the amount of time that a Rhode Island resident is eligible for welfare benefits from 4 years to 2 years. NASW-RI vehemently opposes any move to restrict welfare benefits for Rhode Island's most needy residents. More focus should be put on education and job training, specifically education. If the goal of the program is indeed to provide needy families with the assistance needed to clime out of poverty and become self sustaining independent families then the act should not be restricted any further than it currently is. A full anaysis for this bill (Article 16 '09 budget at www.rinasw.info).

H - 7023

BY: Gemma, Brien, Singleton, Wasylyk, and Lima

ENTITLED: An Act Relating to Family Court – Jurisdiction

This act would mandate that sentences imposed by courts, other than family court, upon seventeen years pursuant to 2007 P.L. 73 Article 22, section 1, be vacated and remand to the family court for the institution of appropriate proceedings.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

NASW - RI will communicate/coordinate with children's and correctional networks.

H-7024

BY: Carter, Gallison Trillo, Gemma and Moffitt

ENTITLED: Relating to State Affairs and Government- Rhode Island English Language Affirmation Act of 2008

Introduced January 2, 2008, referred to House Constituent Services. This act would establish English as the official language of the state of Rhode Island, while acknowledging the constitutional rights of individuals to communicate in a language other than English.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

This act would establish English as the primary language in the state of Rhode Island. NASW-RI views this legislation as not recognizing the learning difficulties of new groups to RI and definitely does not recognize diversity of Rhode Island residents. **Although the bill's manifest goal is to help facilitate the learning of the English language for non-English speaking residents, an unintended outcome of this type of legislation has been used to promote discrimination in other states.**

H – 7025

BY: Gemma, Brien, Trillo, Corvese, and Carter

ENTITLED: An Act Relating to State Affairs and Government – Identification of Citizens

This act creates a number of legal requirements and obligations regarding the reporting of illegal immigrants.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

NASW-RI opposes all legislation that requires reporting of suspected illegal immigrants because possibility violating individual rights of residents that cannot produce identification and may result in npretext profiling of immigrant groups.

H – 7033

BY: McNamara, Malik and Corvese

ENTITLED: Relating to Motor and Other Vehicles—Remote Alcohol Monitoring. Introduced January 3, 2008, referred to House Judiciary.

This act would permit a judge to require any person who pleads nolo conendere or guilty, or is otherwise convicted of driving under the influence, driving while intoxicated, or driving while impaired to wear an alcohol monitoring device which would alert the probation office that the wearer is consuming alcohol while under sentence.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

H – 7035

BY: Shanley, Gallison, Scott, Long, Lewiss

ENTITLED: An Act Relating to Taxation – Estate and Transfer Taxes – Liability and Computation

This act would limit the valuation of farmland and other real and tangible property associated with the agricultural operations on such farmlands to \$2,500,000 for purposes of imposition of taxes by the state upon transfer of the estates of decedent farmers.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

Even though Rhode Island is in dire need of supporting agriculture concerns, especially direct support for farmer's, in a time of horrendous budget deficits and cuts to critical support programs, all tax expenditures to be carefully scrutinized.

H – 7036

BY: Corvese, Schadone, Malik, McNamara, and Gallison

ENTITLED: An Act Relating to Criminal Offenses – Trespass and Vandalism

This act would amend the penalties for willful trespass within school buildings by mandating a fine of not more than \$1,000 or imprisonment for 1 year, or both.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

NASW-RI is committed to raising questions for consideration regarding mandatory minimums, the effectiveness, and the impact to the state at various levels. NASW-RI believes that sentences should be imposed individually based on the nature and severity of the crime and extenuating circumstances.

H – 7037

BY: Brien, Schadone, Mattiello, Giannini and Palumbo

ENTITLED: RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY – UNBORN VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE ACT

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

NASW-RI opposes this legislation on the basis of defining an unborn child as “child in utero”, and the implications of the language “murder of a child in utero” could have regarding the anti-abortion movement. NASW strongly supports a woman’s right to choose.

7038

Sponsored By: Brien, Schadone, Mattiello, Giannini, Palumbo

ENTITLED: An Act Relating to Criminal Offenses-This act would make assault on a pregnant woman causing her to suffer a miscarriage or stillbirth punishable by up to 30 years imprisonment.

Executive Director's Recommendation:

Support Not Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion:

NASW-RI opposes this legislation on the basis of defining an unborn child as “child in utero”, and the implications of the language “murder of a child in utero” could have regarding the anti-abortion movement. NASW strongly supports a woman’s right to choose.

H – 7039

BY: Representatives Brien, Schadone, Mattiello, Palumbo, and Malik

ENTITLED: An Act Relating To Health and Safety – Abortion

Introduced on January 03, 2008 and referred to House Judiciary

This act would prohibit any woman from being forced to have an abortion against her will.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

No woman can be forced to have an abortion against her will under preset laws and therefore NASW-RI does not see the need for this law.

H-7043

BY: Story, Coaty, Ehrhardt, Savage and Long

ENTITLED: Relating to Education

Introduced January 3, 2008, referred to House Finance. This act would provide for the reimbursement of extraordinary services to school districts.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

NASW - RI is not opposed to this legislation in principle if expanded to higher cost sharing for all education services and not singling out special education students. However NASW - RI is opposed at this time to even an addendum version fo this bill. Please read on.

Language in this bill referring to extraordinary services reimbursement, would mean a local school district would be refunded any costs incurred over \$50,000 per student which only applies to special education students. Such reimbursements can help lessen the strain on property taxes. Property tax funding for local school costs is based on an antiquated system of funding schools when communication was limited between schools and the capitol and government was much more localized. It also was created before communities and people became aware of the significant barriers that disabilities cause related to increasingly more complex and competitive highly skilled job market. Individuals with severe disabilities certainly can work in highly skilled jobs and learn effectively with supports and accommodations. No society is healthy or mature without full integration opportunities for numerous groups, including people with disabilities. The competing problems is that RI has an extremely large budget deficit and town residents are over burdened with property taxes.

NASW - RI would not be in favor of taking funds out of the general budget at this time because of the harm to other needed programs. The two main issues here is an antiquated funding mechanism for public education and the cost shifting mechanism that the federal government has implemented for the past seven years. It is time that the governor of our state join others in insisting that the federal government changes priorities to education and social programs relieving funds at the state level to help temporarily fix the issue that this bill is trying to address. Simultaneous, it is time to address the structural deficit by looking at other untapped or under tapped revenue streams that can be found in a number of tax expenditures, tax loop holes & the overall distribution of income tax among various tax categories.

As the State becomes more financially stable and more quality jobs are developed, the whole school funding system should be overhauled with general treasury funds playing a larger part. In the past several general assemblies, there have been numerous bills attempting to set cap levels from \$5000 to \$30,000 for special education services. If any of this legislation were to actually past, it would be entirely possible for special education students to need services and then not get them because the local community, by statute ,would be no longer responsible to provide funds above the cap level and the state would have not enough money to fund the programs either. Although this legislation is not the same as the previous ones, given the budget deficit we would need to oppose it on other grounds and we fear it si so similar to previous attempts that it may simply be a incremental step.

We would also oppose this bill because it singles out special needs students making them a “target”for some town residents when friction develops because promises or presumed promises were broken. We would definitely support greater fiscal responsibility by state government for all public education services when the budget allows.

7049

BY Brien, Malik, Schadone, Mattiello, Palumbo

ENTITLED: An Act Relating to Health and Safety-Health Care Rights of Conscience Act. This act would provide protection from discrimination to all health care providers who chose not to participate in a health care service that violates the conscience of the health care provider.

Executive Director’s Recommendation:

Support Conditional Support x Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion:

This act would provide protection from discrimination to health care providers who don’t want to participate in a health care service that conflicts with the conscience of that health care provider. NASW-RI fully supports a woman’s right to choose and believes that if requested, women should be able to receive the procedures of their choice and that is covered by their health insurance, statute and/or professional codes of ethics. NASW-RI respects health care providers’ personal or religious beliefs, however believes that there should be alternative

options/service procedures if conflict arises with those health care providers' conscience. Furthermore if providers are allowed to opt out of a service, clients should be informed at intake of that such a policy exist in the organization and alternatives should be made without inconvenience to the client and hindrance to services sought.

H-7053

BY: Pacheco, Church, Mumford, Slater and Lima

ENTITLED: Relating to Public Officers and Employees

Introduced January 8, 2008, referred to House Finance. This act would allow members in the state retirement systems who have retired to be reemployed by the state for 75 working days or 150 half days in any one year without forfeiture or reduction in their benefits.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

If this practice were put in place, there should be strict conditions placed upon "reemployment". The need should be for a highly specialized purpose, be time limited to the task, reviewed by a third party source for the need of the position, should not replace a position that should be replaced, and the salary should not exceed the budgeted amount for the position or similar position for the work performed.

H – 7055

BY: Gablinske, Winfield, Caprio D, Brien, Malik

ENTITLED: An Act Relating to State Affairs and Government

This act would repeal the provision of the privatization of state services act and would make other amendments.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

NASW-RI is opposed to the privatization of safety net services involving Children's Protective service, Correction s, Training School, Advocate services and others that either deal with protection of citizens rights , well being or direct services involving protection of the public. There are several reasons, but prominently is that privatization makes these services more vulnerable to cuts or finical instability.

H – 7057

BY: Lewiss, Shanley, Kennedy, Picard and McNamara

Entitled: relating to insurance – health insurance - co-payments

Requiring insurance carriers to reimburse hospitals for uncollected co-payments or deductibles

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

The relationship of debt, free service and funding is complicated and should be studied prior to making insurance companies pay which would drive insurance rates up for consumers and small business disproportionately.

H – 7059

BY: Representatives Savage, Melo, Rose, Dennigan, and Story

ENTITLED: An Act Relating to Education – Residence of Children

Introduced on January 08, 2008 and referred to House Health, Education & Welfare

This act would give a presumption of validity to a school district in hearings before the department of elementary and secondary education when a school district determines that a child is no longer a resident of that district for purposes of public education.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

H-7063

BY: Savage, Rose, Malik, Dennigan and Melo

ENTITLED: Declaring March 29, 2008 as "Lights Out America Day"

Introduced January 8, 2008, referred to House read and passed.

Executive Director's Recommendation

X Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

NASW-RI also supports energy conservation throughout the state.

H-7073

BY: Walsh, Lally, Scott and Shanley

ENTITLED: Relating to State Affairs and Government—State Lottery Tick Game

Introduced January 9, 2008, referred to House Finance. This act would mandate the state lottery division to conduct an instant game known as the "Scratch the Tick Game" during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2009. The net revenue from the first three months of the running of said game shall be deposited in a restricted revenue account to be used by the University of Rhode Island Center to Prevent Tick Bourne Diseases.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

NASW - RI supports funding for tick prevention research. Lyme's disease is a devastating illness will long term negative results. NASW-RI is uncomfortable with supporting this through the use of gambling, however if the lottery ticket campaigns included the a statement toof the use for the funds, it is more tolerable. A clause suld be included that stated if substantial funds form the sale of the ticket exceeded the need by the URI research facility, then the ticke t campaign would not be re-run until nessarry andapproved by the General Assembly.

H - 7076

BY: McNamara and Palumbo

ENTITLED: An Act Relating to the Department of Corrections – Prisoner Organ Donation

This act would establish a prisoner organ, tissue and bone marrow donor program within the department of corrections.

Executive Director's Recommendation

X Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

Every year, 79,000 patients await organ transplants; nearly 3,000 new patients are added to the waiting list each month. Allowing prisoners to participate in organ donation stands to provide a valuable resource for organs for transplant while helping prisoners gain a sense of worth. The organs would still need to pass all health screening and treated no different than other organ.

H - 7079

BY: Representatives Malik, Gablinske, Gallison, Rose and Winfield

ENTITLED: An Act Relating To Education – Health And Safety of Pupils. Introduced January 09, 2008

Referred to House Health, Education and Welfare. This act would require every student violating a school policy regarding the possession of alcohol or drugs, whether or not the violation occurred on a school premises or not, to suspend that student from all sports programs, teams, or other extracurricular activities, including clubs, dances, proms or other programs for a period of one year.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

Sports and activities draw some students to school. Without these activities, some students lack motivation to go to school because they do not see the connection between school and their future. These students may leave school prior to obtaining a diploma. Studies show that students who do not graduate. Regardless of the quality of education, are 5 times more likely to live their lives in poverty. Students who experience or provoke instances mentioned above should receive intense support to stay in school and address the root problems that contribute to poor choices.

H – 7081

BY: Representatives Gemma, Ajello, Handy, Scott, and Segal

ENTITLED: **RELATING TO COURTS AND CIVIL PROCEDURE- FAMILY COURT**

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

This act would allow for divorce proceedings to occur in Rhode Island even if the marriage is not a recognized marriage in this state, but is in any other state or United States possession. We strongly support the right of two adults to nullify a marriage contract in the state of Rhode Island regardless of what state the marriage was certified/approved in. NASW -RI would like to to an addendum attached that includes marriages consummated in foreign countries recognized by the US.

H-7093

BY: Schadone, O'Neill, Petrarca, Kennedy, Vaudreuil

ENTITLED: Relating to State Affairs and Government—Economic Development

Introduced January 10, 2008, referred to House Finance. This act would create a small business revolving loan and credit enhancement fund to be administered by the Rhode Island economic development corporation to help Rhode Island employers with one hundred or less employees.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor X More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

H-7094

BY: Church, Williams, Gallison, San Bento, Silva

ENTITLED: Relating to State Affairs and Government—Providing for the Voluntary Support of Meals On Wheels by Allowing the Designation of a Contribution on the Rhode Island Income Tax Return.

Introduced January 10, 2008, referred to House Finance. This act would allow resident individual taxpayers who are due a tax refund to designate on their Rhode Island tax return that a contribution be made from their tax refund due to Meals on Wheels.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

NASW-RI supports voluntary monetary contributions as supplemental support to the Meals On Wheels program.

H – 7096

BY: Sullivan, Kilmartin, Schadone, O’Neil, and Moffitt

ENTITLED: An Act Relating to State Affairs and Government

An act would require the operation of video lottery games on a twenty-four hour basis at the Twin River and Newport Grand facilities.

Executive Director’s Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

The revenue gained from the additional hours of operation would be distributed as school aid.

H – 7097

BY: Melo, Savage, Story, Rose and Segal

ENTITLED: SUPPORTING A CAP OF \$20,000 ON THE COST OF EDUCATING EACH INDIVIDUAL SPECIAL EDUCATION STUDENT AT THE LOCAL LEVEL

Executive Director’s Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

If the locally funded \$20,000 individual student cost cap is exceeded and there is no additional funding available at the state level, the child may be denied additional services. We support an increased role of the state in education, but this bill does not identify where this funding will come from. See H - 7043.

H – 7100

BY: Representatives Shadone, Corvese, Melo, Palumbo, Malik

ENTITLED: **RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY- FETAL PROTECTION ACT**

Executive Director’s Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

NASW - RI strongly oppose any legislation that changes laws regarding a woman’s right to choose and is a threat to the guidelines set forth in the Supreme Court decision Roe vs. Wade.

H – 7101

BY: Representatives Savage, Dennigan, Slater, Melo, and Amaral

ENTITLED: **RELATING TO PROPERTY- RESIDENTIAL LANDLORD AND TENANT ACT**

Executive Director’s Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

This act would provide greater benefits to residential tenants sixty-two years of age and older who move from rental premises. We support giving elders more control over their financial livelihood by facilitating the move from independent living to residential care. In so doing, elders are able to save money they would forfeit from the termination of a lease and thus remain in a better financial position and control over their own destiny. The longer the elder remains in a stable financial situation, the lower the cost to the state.

H-7103

BY: Church, McCauley, Melo, Jackson, O’Neill

ENTITLED: Relating to Criminal Offenses—Failure to Pay Child Support

Introduced January 10, 2008, referred to House Judiciary. This act would decrease the amount of child support arrearage constituting a felony.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

NASW-RI is monitoring, no analysis has been developed at this time regarding impact. We strongly believe in an absent parent responsibility to pay child support. We are also very about the number of various crimes that have been tagged with a "felony" designation. An absent parent in jail can not pay child support. Garnishing pay checks, public announcements and other methods should be used prior to felony status. Of course extenuating circumstances such as attempt so to pay the ful amount, disability, current service in the military where not enough money is made to pay the child support, and other excusable circumstances should be taken into consideration.

H-7104

BY: O'Neill, Pacheco, Melo, Sullivan and Schadone

ENTITLED: Relating to Elections—General Assembly

Introduced January 10, 2008, referred to House Judiciary. This act would authorize persons who will be eighteen on the day of the election to vote in the primary immediately preceding.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

NASW-RI supports legislation that includes young voters especially persons who are going to be eighteen on the day of the election in the voting process. Young adults should be encouraged to participate in their duty to vote.

H – 7107

BY: Representatives Brien, Gemma, Mattiello, Gablinske, and Singleton

ENTITLED: **RELATING TO LABOR AND LABOR RELATIONS**

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

See Senate Bill 2091

This act would require all non-governmental employers within the state with (3) or more employees to apply to participate in the extended federal basic employment verification pilot program and to participate if accepted. The act would also impose a fine on an employer that does not participate in the program. NASW-RI is opposed to legislation that aims to discriminate against persons on the basis of citizenship status. We support the enactment of comprehensive immigration reform that provides a path for undocumented persons to become citizens of the United States. This legislation has states rely on a flawed system- one which includes about 17.8 million errors, of which 12.7 million refer to US citizens. This legislation will result in thousands of Rhode Islanders being denied employment because of an administrative error, a typo, a life change- marriage, divorce, name change, or naturalization. The best way Rhode Island has to deal with the broken immigration system is to enforce current law and to ensure that every employer is meeting the requirements of current RI Labor Law.

H – 7111

BY: Representatives Murphy, Kilmartin, Lima, E Coderre, and Corvese

ENTITLED: **RELATING TO PUBLIC OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES- RETIREMENT SYSTEM**

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

This legislation would create a special house commission to study all aspects of the state pension or retirement system.

H – 7117

BY: Representatives Gallison, Sullivan, Pacheco, Fellela, and San Bento

Entitled: relating to human services – long-term home health . requires dhs to include additional number of medicare and medicaid approved persons in caseload estimates

Executive Director’s Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

Expansions proposed in this bill including home based services are necessary to help ensure that seniors after living productive and meaningful lives can continue as they age.

H – 7119

BY: Representatives Shanley, Lewiss, San Bento, Scott and Walsh

ENTITLED: An Act Relating To Taxation – The Personal Income Tax. Introduced January 15, 2008. Referred to House Finance. This act would add to the Rhode Island income tax form a refund deduction for a contribution to the Rhode Island Agricultural Lands Preservation Commission.

Executive Director’s Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

NASW - RI is monitoring and is concerned that this noble needed idea may not be able to be carried out to the budget deficit. NASW - RI is not be in favor of this deduction at this time, however would support the concept if presented when the state is no longer running a deficit. the money would come from to support this tax refund. All tax expenditures need to be scrutinized.

H – 7120

BY: Representatives Rice, Handy, Segal, Palumbo, and Pacheco

ENTITLED: RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT- ELECTRONIC TELECOMMUNICATION OPEN INFRASTRUCTURE ACT (This act would create an innovation center within the Rhode Island economic development corporation to help support and improve education, health care, public safety and economic security by increasing access to the internet and other new technologies.)

Executive Director’s Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

This act would create an innovation center within the Rhode Island economic development corporation to help support and improve education, healthcare, public safety, and economic security by increasing access to the internet and other new technologies.

NASW-RI Recognizes the importance of the internet in today’s economy. Most importantly, we recognize that access to information technology offers economic opportunities, higher living standards, more individual choices, enhanced educational opportunities and better access to up to date information essential to a modern society. We fully support this bill with one reservation relate to how the project would be funded.

H – 7121

BY: Representatives Rice, Giannini, Segal, Palumbo, and Pacheco

ENTITLED: **RELATING TO SEXUAL ASSAULT- FOURTH DEGREE SEXUAL ASSUALT**

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

This bill would criminalize sexual contact between a psychotherapist and a patient and deem any such conduct as fourth degree sexual assault by the psychotherapist, punishable as a misdemeanor. The NASW code of ethics clearly prohibits any sexual contact between client and service provider, therefore we support this legislation because it is in accordance with general social worker ethics.

H-7123

BY: Loughlin, McManus, Story and Long

ENTITLED: Relating to Public Officers and Employees

Introduced January 15, 2008, referred to House Finance. This act would require newly hired employees to belong to a 414(k) retirement plan and not the current retirement system under chapters 8-10 of title 36.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion More analysis is needed to evaluate the costs and benefits of the new 414(k) retirement plan for new employees. The act contains limitations for new employees to participate in only the 414(k) retirement plan. This could decrease available benefits options for new employees. The amounts of the state contribution and employees' contribution to the 414(k) retirement plan would be determined by collective bargaining system.

H – 7130

BY: Representatives Rice, Giannini, Pacheco, Brien, Baldelli-Hunt

ENTITLED: **RELATING TO CRIMINAL DETECTION- DNA DETECTION**

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

This legislation would require the taking of DNA from anyone who is arrested regardless of whether or not they are convicted. This would constitute a fundamental invasion of privacy constituting far too large "net"

H – 7135

BY: Brien, Singleton, Gablinske, Palumbo, Mattiello

ENTITLED: AN ACT RELATING TO CRIMINAL PROCEDURE -- IDENTIFICATION AND APPREHENSION OF CRIMINALS

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

NASW-RI opposes legislation that requires reporting of suspected illegal immigrants possibility violating individual rights of residents that cannot produce identification and may result in pretext profiling of immigrant groups.

H – 7137

BY: O'Neill, Mattiello and Petrarca

ENTITLED: RELATING TO CRIMINAL PROCEDURES – SENTENCING AND EXECUTION

This act would require the records of deferred sentences to be automatically quashed and destroyed, if upon completion of the five (5) year period after acceptance of the deferred sentence, no action has been taken on the

case. Further, all records relating to the case would be expunged under chapter.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

If performed with due diligence, expungement of record helps the re-integration process and helps avoid recidivism.

H – 7151

BY: Representatives Giannini and Almeida

ENTITLED: **AMENDING THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION TO STUDY AND ADDRESS CONCERNS REGARDING TEEN VIOLENCE IN THE COMMUNITY**

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

This bill would increase the size of the committee studying teen violence from 11 to 17. Many professionals are needed to look at the complex issue of teen violence.

H – 7157

BY: Sullivan, Williamson, Serpa, Kennedy and O'Neill

ENTITLED: **RELATING TO COMMERCIAL LAW – GENERAL REGULATORY PRACTICES
CREATE NEW CHAPTER REGARDING THE SAFE DESTRUCTION OF DOCUMENTS CONTAINING PERSONAL
INFORMAITON BY BUSINESS ENTITIES**

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

This bill would require businesses to take responsible steps in the destruction of documents containing personal information of clientele and customers. NASW RI supports the right of an individual to have their personal information kept private and secure.

H – 7160

BY: Representatives Long, Rice, Loughlin, Jackson, and Coaty

ENTITLED: **RELATING TO EDUCATION- RESIDENCE OF CHILDREN FOR SCHOOL PURPOSES**

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

This act would increase group home reimbursements to twenty-five thousand dollars per bed. NASW-RI supports increased reimbursement for the educational costs associated with group home placement. We recognize that children placed in group homes on average utilize more school services and thus incur an increased cost of attendance in the school district in which they are placed. Therefore, we support provided higher reimbursement for these services. Currently school districts are reimbursed at a rate of 15,000 per bed, a number that is on par with the average per pupil expenditures in the state- however because these students are using more services a higher reimbursement rate is appropriate. This act may need to be delayed due to budget constraints.

H – 7167

BY: Picard

ENTITLED: **RELATING TO TAXATION**

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

This act would allow the cities and towns in this state to create a municipal economic development zone within the city or town and would direct that one-half of the sales and use tax collected within the zone would be retained by the city or town to finance the development of the zone. At this time, would this tax expenditures's rewards out weight the impact on the state deficit?

H – 7170

BY: Representative Picard

ENTITLED: **RELATING TO PRIVATE SCHOOLS**

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

This act would allow children attending a private school to play for a sports team at the public school in the town in which they live if the private school does not have a team in that sport. This is particularly important to special needs children who need to attend a specialized education setting, yet greatly benefit from the integrative nature of home school sports. NASW - RI strongly supports this legislation.

H-7173

BY: Long, Almeida, Pacheco, Handy and Story

ENTITLED: Relating to Highways—Outdoor Advertising

Introduced January 22, 2008, referred to House Health, Education & Welfare. This act would ban outdoor advertising of alcoholic beverages in the state.

Executive Director's Recommendation

X Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

Advertising techniques are geared to create a positive image for the product and draw in consumers. NASW believes that advertising for alcohol leaves a lasting impression on Rhode Island's youth and teen population and influences them to consume alcoholic beverages at a premature age. There is no need to encourage drinking through advertisements.

H-7174

BY: Amaral, Loughlin, Malik, Silva, Corvese

ENTITLED: Relating to Health and Safety--Abortion

Introduced January 22, 2008, referred to House Judiciary. This act would prohibit any woman from being forced to have an abortion against her will.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support X Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

NASW-RI fully supports the right of women to make decisions regarding their own body, free of external interference, the definition of "forced or required" could be used against medical professionals' recommendations if a woman's life is at risk. A doctor's recommendation could be considered "coercive" by these standards. Under current standards no woman can be forced to have an abortion. This legislation is redundant because of H-7039. S-2493 is its companion bill.

H – 7177

BY: Serpa, Melo and Fellela

ENTITLED: RELATING TO CRIMINAL PROCEDURE – DISPOSITION OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CASES

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

H – 7181

BY: Representatives Rice, Gallison, Handy, Ajello, and Diaz

ENTITLED: **RELATING TO STATE ADDAIRS AND GOVERNMENT- FAIR SHARE HEALTH CARE FUND**

Executive Director’s Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

This act would establish the Fair Share Health Care Fund and would require employers of 1,000 employees or more to file annual reports relating to the portion of total employees health care costs paid by the employer. Believing that healthcare is a fundamental right of all individuals it is the position of NASW that the portion of healthcare paid by employers should be available for public observation in order to highlight the shifting burden of healthcare costs from employers to individuals. Increased knowledge of this trend will increase awareness and keep voters more informed which will be beneficial to any efforts at creating a national health care plan.

H – 7191

BY: Representatives Story, Savage, and Long

ENTITLED: **RELATING TO INSURANCE**

Executive Director’s Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

This act would require life insurance policies delivered or issued in the state on or after Jan.1, 2008 to contain certain provisions relating to return policies and grace periods. This act would also allow insurance policies delivered after Jan. 1, 2008 to contain suicide exclusion periods.

7198

Sponsored By: San Bento

Entitled: An Act Relating to Public Finance-Prohibiting the Use of Public Funds for Abortions. This act would prohibit the use of public facilities, public employees and public funds for the purpose of performing, assisting or encouraging abortion.

Executive Director’s Recommendation:

? Support Not Support Oppose Monitor More

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion: This act would prohibit the use of public funds for abortions. NASW-RI fully supports a woman’s right to choose and opposes this bill. NASW-RI also believes that this bill would discriminate against those who don’t have health insurance and are trying to seek an abortion. Public funds are the only way that many in Rhode Island can rely on medical assistance. Taking public funds away strictly for abortion is another form of discrimination against women and those who cannot otherwise afford an abortion.

H – 7205

BY: Silva, Serpa, Lewiss, Vaudreuil, and O’Neil

ENTITLED: An Act Relating to Health and Safety of Pupils

This act would require all elementary and secondary schools whether public, private, parochial or charter to use environmentally-sensitive cleaning and maintenance products.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

NASW-RI supports providing healthy environments to our children and teens in RI schools. The use of such products would supposedly pose a lesser risk to children's health, safety and the environment.

H – 7206

BY: Corvese, Gablinske, Melo, Brien, Schadone

ENTITLED: An Act Relating to Education – Mandates

This act would require that educational mandates be fully funded or else unenforceable.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

NASW - RI favors more funding from the estate but would not be in favor of taking funds out of the general budget at this time because of the harm to needed programs. There is no doubt that the property tax burden is far too great. The two main issues here is an antiquated funding mechanism for public education and the cost shifting mechanism that the federal government has implemented for the past seven years. It is time that the governor of our state join others in insisting that the federal government changes priorities to education and social programs relieving funds at the state level to help temporarily fix the issue that this bill is trying to address. Simultaneous, it is time to address the structural deficit by looking at other untapped or under tapped revenue streams that can be found in a number of tax expenditures, tax loop holes & the overall distribution of income tax among various tax categories.

H – 7207

BY: Corvese, Gablinske, Melo, O'Neill and Schadone

ENTITLED: RELATING TO EDUCATION – TEACHERS' TENURE

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

The justification to change the date from March to June does not seem to hold validity.

H – 7210

BY: Representatives Gablinski, Corvese, Singleton, Malik

ENTITLED: **RELATING TO EDUCATION- RHODE ISLAND STUDENT INVESTMENT INITIATIVE**

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

This act would direct the Rhode Island Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to develop statewide teacher performance standards.

H – 7211

BY: Representatives Gablinske, Singleton, and Malik

ENTITLED: **RELATING TO EDUCATION- COOPERATIVE SERVICE AMONG SCHOOL DISTRICTS**

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

H-7213

BY: McNamara, Lewiss, Smith, Naughton

ENTITLED: Relating to Education—Health and Safety of Pupils

Introduced January 23, 2008, referred to House Health, Education & Welfare. This act would expand the definition of student discipline codes to include electronic communications.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

NASW-RI supports legislation that incorporates electronic communication into the harassing or bullying in the student discipline codes. Today, many children have access to computers and cell phones which provide a curtain to their identity as a victimizer. The school environment should be a safe and healthy place for students. Extreme caution needs to be taken that the identity of the harasser is 100% accurate and that the privacy and/or civil rights of suspects are not intruded upon.

H-7214

BY: McNamara, Smith, Lewiss, Segal and McCauley

ENTITLED: Relating to Education—Emergency Response Plans

Introduced January 23, 2008, referred to House Health, Education & Welfare. This act would require school districts to adopt emergency response plans for weather-related evacuations.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

NASW-RI supports prevention of harm to students during weather-related emergencies.

H – 7215

BY: Schadone, Melo, McCauley, Gemma

ENTITLED: An Act Relating to Criminal Offenses – Burglary and Breaking and Entering

This act would raise penalties for first and second offenses upon conviction for breaking into a residence when the residents are on the premises.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

The amendment to this act raises the mandatory minimum sentences for first and some second offenses. There are already penalties in place. NASW is opposed to mandatory minimum sentencing. Judges need the ability to exercise discretion in regard to sentences, especially with first-time offenders. State law should allow a judge leeway in minimum sentencing in convictions. Judges should be allowed to consider what may be legitimate mitigating circumstances.

H – 7220

BY: Representatives Church, Melo, Mattiello, Silva, and Serpa

ENTITLED: **RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT- OPEN MEETINGS- SCHOOL COMMITTEES**

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

This act would amend the open meetings law by permitting school committees to satisfy the publication requirements regarding their meeting through publication on a website maintained by the school committee or by publication in a newspaper. Public participation in school committee meetings is a critical fro of feedback to school officials. We are concerned that this minimum level of meeting open meetings law requirements is insufficient for many poor and/or non-technologically oriented individuals. In expensive alternative should be conjunctly explored.

H-7234

BY: Lima, E Coderre, Giannini and Rice

ENTITLED: Relating to Labor—Minimum Wages

Introduced January 23, 2008, referred to House Labor. This act would increase the minimum hourly wage for July 1, 2008 to seven dollars and seventy-five and to eight dollars per hour as of July 1, 2009. Thereafter, each year the minimum hourly wage would be adjusted based upon the rate of inflation.

Executive Director’s Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

NASW-RI supports increases to minimum wage whole heartily, but opposes this legislation because attaching the minimum wage to inflation starting at \$8 is insufficient. The minimum wage is not a “living wage” and currently falls short between \$7-\$8 per hour. The value of the minimum wage has decreased substantially since its creation. The free market place absolutely guarantees that a percentage of workers will fall below the poverty line or exist in the low income working poor category. Until this part of the economic engine is repaired, RI will remain a state of “Haves and Have nots.” All work is of value to society and all individuals, regardless of class status, deserve to live at a healthy level financially and socially. Forces way beyond the control of any one low income individual controls his/her chance of a more moderate income. If that individual succeeds there will be another to take his/her place. This act will not bring minimum wage to a living wage and in fact will guarantee it to remain below the prevalent living wage. NASW-RI strongly encourages and supports increases to the minimum wage as long as no COLA or automatic adjustment is attached.

H – 7239

BY: Representatives Ajello, Giannini, Rice, Walsh and Naughton

ENTITLED: An Act Relating To Insurance. Introduced on January 24, 2008. Referred to House Corporations. This act would provide insurance coverage for treatment of infertility for unmarried, as well as married, persons.

Executive Director’s Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

NASW supports legislation that encourages and enhances the opportunity for infertility treatment.

H – 7245

BY: Kilmartin

ENTITLED: An Act Relating to Health and Safety – Licensing of Health Care Facilities

This act would repeal the provision of the general laws that establishes a minimum level of uncompensated care on an annual basis to be provided by licensed home nursing care providers.

Executive Director’s Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

H – 7247

BY: Corvese, Williams, Gablinske, Pacheco and Schadone

ENTITLED: RELATING TO CRIMINAL OFFENSES – WEAPONS – LICENSE OR PERMIT FEE

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

This bill increases fees which contribute to the General Fund and therefore increase revenue. With the structural deficit in Rhode Island, measures to increase revenues are supported by NASW - RI.

H – 7251

BY: Representatives McNamara, Costantino

ENTITLED: **RELATING TO EDUCATION**

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

This act would require school systems to comply with the uniform system of accounting promulgated by the auditor general. NASW supports uniform accounting standards which serve to enhance accountability and make comparisons across districts more readably accessible.

H-7253

BY: Lewis, Matiello, Brien, O'Neill and Sullivan

ENTITLED: Criminal Offenses

Introduced January 24, 2008, referred to House Judiciary. This act would make it a felony for an on-line predator to engage in cyberstalking of a minor.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

NASW-RI fully supports legislation that protects children and teenagers from on-line predators through cyberstalking. NASW - RI only supports this bill if the individual in question if proved beyond any doubt that he/she "knowing" participated and presented themselves as a minor. This behavior can be extremely destructive in the development of to a minor.

H-7254

BY: Kilmartin

ENTITLED: Relating to Property—Residential Landlord and Tenant Act

Introduced January 24, 2008, referred to House Judiciary. This act would provide grounds for eviction in federally subsidized or regulated housing including violent acts against persons or property, use of narcotics on premises and noncompliance of tenants' obligations notwithstanding the tenant's right to notice and remedies specified under law.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

NASW-RI opposes this legislation because the language of the bill is ambiguous and punitive without proper justification. The definition of violent acts includes striking and attempting to strike another person and under these standards, possible domestic violence situations could jeopardize subsidized housing for whole families. The state provides subsidies for low income housing to help lift families out of poverty and possible cycle of violence and abuse. To restrict or deny these benefits because of the presence of drugs has the potential to exacerbate the problem by taking away much needed benefits.

H – 7255

BY: Fellela, Serpa, Carter, and Ucci

ENTITLED: An Act Relating to Criminal Offenses – Children

This act would amend the definition of second degree child abuse by eliminating the word "serious" therefrom. It would further amend the general laws relating to abuse to include negligent or reckless conduct by a caregiver that exposes a child to the risk of serious bodily injury or death.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

NASW is a strong proponent for child advocacy and supports any legislation aimed to protect children from violence or abuse. NASW does not believe there is ever a just cause for bringing physical injury to a child, serious or not, and is in full support of this bill. The implementation of this law should include culturally sensitive application such as in the case of "Coining". Coining is still a form of abuse under RI definition, but should be handled in a way that insensitive and respectful.

H – 7256

BY: Walsh, Kilmartin, and Williams

ENTITLED: An Act Relating to Food and Drugs

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

This legislation would create new criminal offenses related to methamphetamine possession and manufacture and would establish a commission to study various issues related to methamphetamine. This legislation considers possession of a variety of chemicals as a precursor to manufacture of methamphetamine. This legislation does not indicate the quantities or combinations of chemicals that could be used to manufacture methamphetamine and is overly broad. Chemicals listed include common substances such as acetone (found in nail polish remover) and Lithium (mood stabilizing medication for Bipolar Disorder). This legislation would allow prosecutors to inflict mandatory minimum sentencing upon defendants.

H – 7261

BY: Representatives Long, Savage, and Story

ENTITLED: **RELATING TO EDUCATION- TRANSPORTATION OF SCHOOL PUPILS BEYOND CITY LIMITS**

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

This act would require the state to reimburse the local school committees for the entire cost of transportation of pupils to another city or town when the transportation is required by mandate. This would also require the director of the department of education to determine the appropriate formula reimbursement. This is one bill in a string of bills aimed at moving costs incurred through education to the state. While NASW supports a greater role of the state in providing for public education. With the structural budget deficit we can expect there to be a lack of funds for next years budget as well meaning that unless these bills locate a source of revenue from which to draw NASW will continue to oppose this bills of this nature. Please H - 7043 for more detail.

H-7263

BY: Fox, Almeida, Williams, Segal and Diaz

ENTITLED: Relating to General Assembly—Permanent Joint Committee On Naming All New Buildings, Bridges, Edifices, and Other State Constructions

Introduced January 29, 2008, referred to House Constituent Services. This act would name a portion of the interstate highway 195 "I-Way" after Manuel Q. Ledo and John F. Lopez.

Executive Director's Recommendation

X Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

NASW-RI fully supports public cognition of cultural diversity throughout Rhode Island by renaming highways and roadways.

H – 7271

BY: Representatives Gablinske, Winfield, D Caprio, Brien, and Malik

ENTITLED: **RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND SERVICES- PRIVATIZATION OF STATE SERVICES**

Executive Director’s Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

This act would make various revisions to the provisions of the general laws pertaining to the privatization of state services, including, but not limited to, repealing the provision providing for an appeal process. This act would remove client assessment, cost assessment and staet benefit impact assessment or consider at into privatize. Absolutely no safety or protection services should be privatized where they would be vulnerable to financial conditions.

H-7273

BY: Kilmartin

ENTITLED: Relating to Taxation—Property Subject To Taxation

Introduced January 29, 2008, referred to House Finance. This act would permit cities and towns to defer a portion of property taxes for residents over 65 years of age. Those taxes so deferred would operate as a lien upon the real estate.

Executive Director’s Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor X More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion This act would permit cities and towns to defer a portion of property taxes for residents over 65 years of age and those taxes so deferred would operate as a lien upon the real estate. The deferment eligibility of the older person would include income thresholds defined by the city or town councils. NASW-RI supports benefits to elderly persons; however, this act does not suggest where the lost taxes would be supplemented as a result of this bill.

H-7274

BY: Kilmartin

ENTITLED: Relating to Education—State Aid

Introduced January 29, 2008, referred to House Finance. This act would provide that the general assembly annually appropriate three million dollars to any school district that creates an art high school.

Executive Director’s Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose X Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

NASW-RI is monitoring, no analysis has been developed at time.

H – 7285

BY: Kilmartin

ENTITLED: Relating to Education – Regional County School Superintendents

This act would establish a regional county school superintendent in each county of the state, within the Providence County, for purposes of oversight and facilitating the combination of resources in the county.

Executive Director’s Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

H – 7287

BY: Kilmartin

ENTITLED: RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT – CORRECTIONS DEPARTMENT

Executive Director’s Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

This act would require persons placed on community confinement to notify their landlords of said status. Works against principles of rehabilitative integrating of offenders as well as principles of citizen privacy. Landlords are not bound by confidentiality laws.

H – 7290

BY: Representatives Serpa, Gallison, Gablinske, Lewiss, and Silva

ENTITLED: **RELATING TO COURTS AND CIVIL PROCEDURE**

Executive Director’s Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

This act would permit the district court or the family court, in instances where domestic violence is alleged to include in any orders provisions for the care, custody and control of any companion animal as set forth in section 4-13.1-2, kept or held by either party, or by a minor child residing in the household. Pets often are extremely critical to helping children experiencing trauma to maintaining “anchor” in their life. Pets provide an opportunity for unconditional love and an opportunity for the child to express love.

H-7294

BY: Kilmartin and Coderre

ENTITLED: Relating to Property—Mortgage Foreclosure and Sale

Introduced January 29, 2008, referred to House Municipal. This act would require foreclosure deeds to be recorded within thirty days of the foreclosure sale and would also require financial institutions who are successful bidders at the foreclosure sale to create escrow accounts for the payment of outstanding real estate taxes.

Executive Director’s Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion NASW-RI would need more analysis on the costs and benefits to financial institutions to create segregated non-interest bearing escrow accounts for the payment of outstanding real estate taxes as well as the cost and benefits to homeowners facing foreclosure.

H-7303

BY: Palumbo and Corvese

ENTITLED: Relating to Human Services—Family Independence Act

Introduced January 30, 2008, referred to House Finance. This act would limit public assistance to twenty-four months in a continuous sixty month period.

Executive Director’s Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

This legislation is redundant and necessary because of H-7021 introduced by Representatives Carter, Gallison, Gemma, Moffitt and Trillo on January 2, 2008. NASW-RI continues to strongly oppose this legislation embodied in Article16.

H-7304

BY: Giannini

ENTITLED: Relating to Taxation—Providence Freeze of Certain Tax

Introduced January 30, 2008, referred to House Finance. This act would freeze the taxes on owner occupied residential real estate for persons sixty-five of age or older, disabled or veterans of the armed services of the United States of America, having not more than \$25,000 household income for 2008 and each year thereafter.

Executive Director’s Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose X Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

NASW-RI is monitoring, no analysis has been developed at this time regarding the impact.

H – 7305

BY: Petrarca, DeSimone, O’Neill, Ucci, and D Caprio

ENTITLED: An Act Relating to State Affairs and Government -- Department of Health

This act would create two (2) hearing officer positions to hear matters relating to the department of health.

Executive Director’s Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor X More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

H – 7306

BY: Long, Kennedy, Lally, Trillo, and Story

ENTITLED: An Act Relating to Courts and Civil Procedures – Cause of Action

This act would provide that no person who gratuitously renders emergency assistance in the nature of cardiopulmonary resuscitation or automated external defibrillation to a person in need thereof, shall be liable for civil damages for any personal injuries which result from acts or omissions by such persons rendering the emergency care, which may constitute ordinary negligence.

Executive Director’s Recommendation

X Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

Good Samaritan law.

H – 7307

BY: Coderre, Walsh, Williams, Giannini and Naughton

ENTITLED: RELATING TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PREVENTION ACT

Executive Director’s Recommendation

☑ Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

Minor expansion to a previous law.

H – 7309

BY: Representatives Vaudreuil, Silva, Serpa, Gallison, and Mattiello

ENTITLED: An Act Relating to Criminal Offenses – Sexual Offender Registration. Introduced on January 30, 2008. Referred to House Judiciary. This act would require that the director of the department of corrections verify that the sex offender board of review and other state agencies have complied with all the requirements of section 11-37. 1-6 prior to the release of any individual subject to sexual offender notification, and would provide for notice to the attorney general and presiding justice of any noncompliance, and would provide any person adversely affected by this act a remedy.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

NASW believes that committing a sexual offense is a serious crime and strongly believes that all of the necessary state agencies should take all precautionary measures before releasing an offender so he/she is not to repeat the crime. At issue here is the added resources needed by the DOC. Failure by the DOC can not be allowed to hold up the release of said offender.

H-7324

BY: Moffitt, Serpa, Fellela, Church and Ucci

ENTITLED: Relating to Education—School Committees and Superintendents

Introduced January 31, 2008, referred to House Health, Education and Welfare. This act would group the public school districts into four regional administrative school districts for purposes of purchasing school supplies and administration.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

Regional CO-OP?

H – 7325

BY: Story, Malik, McNamara, Walsh, and Mumford

ENTITLED: An Act Relating to Education – Health and Safety of Pupils

This act would provide that a school district may, suspend upon the charging and expel upon the conviction of a student who commits a felony. It would further provide for notice, hearings or appeals.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

This legislation would leave to many holes regarding certainty of crime, reason for charges and too much latitude for public influence.

H – 7326

BY: Church, Almeida, Silva, Vaudreuil, and Naughton

ENTITLED: An Act Relating to Health and Safety – Rights of Nursing Home Patients

This act would require a nursing home to reimburse any money that has been prepaid by a deceased patient to the nursing home to the estate of the deceased patient within thirty (30) days of the date of death of the patient.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

H-7334

BY: Diaz, Almeida and Slater

ENTITLED: Relating to State Affairs and Government

Introduced February 5, 2008, referred to House Constituent Services. This act would create a Liberian cultural exchange commission.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

NASW - RI supports cultural recognition and welcoming of diversity through public programming.

H-7343

BY: Lima, E Coderre, Almeida, Dennigan and Diaz

ENTITLED: Relating to Taxation—Personal Income Tax—Capital Gains Rate

Introduced February 5, 2008, referred to House Finance. This act would raise the capital gains rate for the 2009 through 2011 years to 5% with the increased amount raised for the 2009 tax year going to Rhode Island cities and towns to compensate for cuts in state aid to cities and towns. Starting in tax year 2012 the capital gains rates drops down to the current rates.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

Revenues need to be raised without the use of regressive taxes.

H – 7348

BY: Brien, Baldelli-Hunt, Lally, Shanley, and Schadone

ENTITLED: State affairs and government – economic development

This act would establish within the Economic Development Corporation an expanded program to assist Rhode Island companies to secure new business with federal, state and local government.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

Cost general treasury funds?

H – 7349

BY: Baldelli-Hunt, Almeida, Pacheco, Brien, and Story

ENTITLED: Relating to public officers and employees – insurance benefits

This act would require a state employee who is either married to another state employee or who is the domestic partner of another state employee to choose the least expensive health care plan, either family coverage or individual coverage. This act eliminates any credit or additional payment to the employee.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

H – 7351

BY: Representatives Shanley, Naughton, Lally, Brien, Dennigan

ENTITLED: **RELATING TO EDUCATION- NURSING LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM**

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

This act would address loan forgiveness under the nursing loan repayment program and appropriate annually \$250,000 for matching funds. In general we very much support this concept, however we feel it should also apply to other professional areas where labor shortages are projected including Social Work.

H-7353

BY: McCauley

ENTITLED: Relating to Education—The Rhode Island Investment Initiative

Introduced February 5, 2008, referred to House Health, Education and Welfare. This act would provide that the intervention provisions of the Rhode Island Student Investment Initiative Act would not alter rights or remedies of school employees provided under federal laws, state laws, local laws or collective bargaining agreements.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

NASW - RI supports the hard fought gains made by school professionals.

H – 7356

BY: Corvese, Schadone, and DeSeimone

ENTITLED: An Act Relating to Businesses and Professionals – Health Clubs

Executive Director's Recommendation

X Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

This act would require a criminal records check of any owner, employee, or volunteer **working in a dance studio, karate school, or modeling studio**. If not already covered under statute, these facilities should be covered just like other personnel who serve children.

H – 7357

BY: D Caprio, Williamson, DeSione, Petrarca, and Mattiello

ENTITLED: Relating to courts and civil procedures – procedure in particular actions – death by wrongful act

This act would allow for the recovery of punitive damages in a wrongful death suit.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

H – 7358

BY: D Caprio, Williamson, DeSimone, Petrarca, and Mattiello

ENTITLED: Relating to courts and civil procedures – procedure in particular actions – death by wrongful act

This act would allow for the recovery of punitive damages in a wrongful death suit.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

H 7360

Sponsored By: Handys

Entitled: An Act Relating to Health and Safety—Prohibiting Persons From Entering and Remaining on Public Ways or Sidewalks Within a 100 Foot Radius of a Reproductive Health Care Facility.

Executive Director’s Recommendation:

Support Not Support Oppose Monitor More

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion: This act would prohibit persons from remaining within a 100-foot health care facility. NASW-RI strongly supports a woman’s right to choice and fully supports this bill. In 2000, The United States Supreme Court ruled in favor of a similar law in the court case Hill v. Colorado. NASW-RI respects this court opinion and fully backs this piece of legislation. See policy statement at www.rinw.info.

H-7363

BY: Mattiello, Giannini, Almeida, Ferri and Brien

ENTITLED: Relating to Criminal Offenses

Introduced February 5, 2008, referred to House Judiciary. This act would increase the online property offenses act and would make it a criminal offense to use Internet access to obtain, sell, or fence stolen property.

Executive Director’s Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

It appears this legislation is far to vague to be successfully put into action. If a person purchases an item form a on-line auction and does not know it is stolen, ow can they e held criminally liable for the purchase?

H – 7378

BY: Segal, Williams, Ajello, and Handy

ENTITLED: Relating to taxation – personal income tax

This act would require employers to provide employees with bi-lingual notices regarding the existence of the federal earned income tax credit and volunteer income tax assistance providers.

Executive Director’s Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

Forms need to be made available via online so translations are correct.

H – 7379

BY: Gallison, Slater, Giannini, Kilmartin, and San Bento

ENTITLED: Relating to state affairs and government – economic development corporation

This act would require the approval of the senate finance committee and house finance committee prior to the issuance of any community development block grant.

Executive Director’s Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

H-7383

BY: Naughton, E Coderre, Dennigan

ENTITLED: Relating to Health and Safety—Breast Cancer Act

Introduced February 6, 2008, referred to House Finance. This act would provide additional funding for breast cancer screening.

Executive Director's Recommendation

X Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

This is the companion bill to S-2134. H - 7393 Breast cancer is one of the most prevalent cancers and is left undetected has a high death rate. On the other hand, early detection allows for a much greater chance of survival and much less intrusive treatment procedures.

H-7384

BY: Naughton, E Coderre, Dennigan

ENTITLED: Relating to State Affairs and Government—Rhode Island Housing and Mortgage Finance Corporation.

Introduced February 6, 2008, referred to House Finance. This act would establish a program of loan guarantees or interest subsidies within the Rhode Island housing and mortgage finance corporation for the purpose of making home modifications to the primary residence of persons who have a disability, or age 65 or older, or are the caregiver of a family member with a disability or age 65 or older; for the purpose of improved accessibility to allow such persons to live more independently in the community.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

NASW-RI supports initiatives that provide opportunity to Rhode Islanders to live independently in the community for as long as possible. We believe that Rhode Island should take the necessary measures to help ensure that individuals with disabilities and older individuals who need structural modifications to live in their homes or in less institutional settings. The cost to many individuals is decreased happiness and increased stress when community options are not available, creating a tremendous burden to the individual as well as family members and friends. The financial cost of an individual living in a more institutional setting is greatly increased by that level of care. Following is an excerpt from a national study, of which there are many, that looks at the financial saving of home and community based care over institutional care. The full study can be viewed at: <http://www.pubmedcentral.nih.gov/articlerender.fcgi?artid=1395522>

Utilization and costs of home-based and community-based care within a social HMO: Trends Over an 18-Year Period

Walter Leutz, Lucy Nonnenkamp, Lynn Dickinson, and Kathleen Brody

For more than two decades, a premier health system has been willing and able to offer a Home/Community Based care benefit supplement to Medicare even as the enrollees have aged and become increasingly disabled; beneficiaries have kept choosing the SHMO option even as premiums have nearly quadrupled and the dollar value of the benefit has been eroded by inflation; and the federal government has continued to support the demonstration through five administrations and eight acts of Congress. These simple facts carry strong credibility about the advantages of offering HCB care benefits to a full population of elders in an integrated managed care model. The message is relevant to policy makers, managed care programs, and advocates in both the US and internationally. Not least, the lessons of the SHMO have been followed by other regions of Kaiser Permanente, which have 800,000 Medicare beneficiaries, and which could adopt this model.

For more than two decades, a premier health system has been willing and able to offer a HCB care benefit supplement to Medicare even as the enrollees have aged and become increasingly disabled; beneficiaries have kept choosing the SHMO option even as premiums have nearly quadrupled and the dollar value of the benefit has been eroded by inflation; and the federal government has continued to support the demonstration through five administrations and eight acts of Congress. These simple facts carry strong credibility about the advantages of offering HCB care benefits to a full population of elders in an integrated managed care model. The message is relevant to policy makers, managed care programs, and advocates in both the US and internationally. Not least, the lessons of the SHMO have been followed by other regions of Kaiser Permanente, which have 800,000 Medicare beneficiaries, and which could adopt this model.

H – 7388

BY: McNamara and Costantino

ENTITLED: Relating to Education

This act would place regional education collaborative under the review of the advisory council on school finances.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

NASW-RI is monitoring this bill. No analysis has been developed at this time.

H – 7389

BY: San Bento, Church, Pacheco, E Coderre, Naughton

ENTITLED: Relating to taxation – personal income tax

This act would place a moratorium on the application of the alternate flat tax and the reduction of the capital gains tax rate for assets held more than five (5) years until December 31, 2009.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

NASW-RI supports efforts to increase revenues to address the structural budget deficit in Rhode Island.

H-7393

BY: Giannini, Fellela, Serpa, Williams, Rice

ENTITLED: Relating to Criminal Offenses—Children

Introduced February 6, 2008, referred to House Judiciary. This act would amend the definition of second degree child abuse by eliminating the word "serious" therefrom. It would further amend the general laws relating to abuse to include negligent or reckless conduct by a care giver that exposes a child to the risk of serious bodily injury or death.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

H – 7395

BY: Lally

ENTITLED: An Act Relating to Courts and Civil Procedure – Courts – Family Court

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

H – 7399

BY: E Coderre, Naughton, Kennedy, and MaNamara

ENTITLED: Relating to insurance – accident and sickness insurance policies

This act would amend end the definition of a dependent on health insurance polices. It would not require that a child between 10 and 25 be a student to be considered a dependent.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

The largest age group of uninsured individuals is between 18 - 24 at 19.3 % which is twice the level of any other age group (2004 - RI DOH). NASW-RI supports initiatives that aim to address the lack of health care coverage in Rhode Island. While we do support comprehensive health care reform we recognize that this will take time and actions must be taken in the short term to ensure that dependents are insured regardless of their status as a student.

H-7403

BY: Dennigan, Aiello, Handy and Diaz

ENTITLED: Relating to Education—Universal Breakfast Program

Introduced February 12, 2008, referred to House Finance. This act would establish a Universal Breakfast Program for all Rhode Island “severe need” public schools, as defined by the Federal School Lunch Program.

Executive Director’s Recommendation

X Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

NASW-RI supports legislation that protects and enhances the well-being of Rhode Islands most vulnerable youth. Providing a universal free breakfast program does a lot to address the under nourishment of children in schools. Providing a breakfast to children in the morning has benefits that extend beyond simple nourishment. Students who eat breakfast are better able to pay attention in class and learn more. They are less prone to act out and more likely to succeed in school.

H – 7407

BY: Ucci, Smith, Petrarca and Fellela

ENTITLED: RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY – RHODE ISLAND RESOURCE RECOVERY CORPORATION

Executive Director’s Recommendation

✓ Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

This act would increase revenue to local districts and towns in Rhode Island. With the current state of the Rhode Island budget limiting income to local municipalities this legislation provides local towns with the needed revenue to sustain services in those municipalities.

House Bill No.7411

BY Coaty, Gorham, McManus, Story, Ehrhardt

ENTITLED: ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO INITIATIVE AND REFERENDUM

(provide a detailed process by which a proponent of a voter initiative and referendum proposal would present the proposal to the secretary of state, the general assembly and the governor)

Executive Director's Recommendations

Support Non Support X Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

While this legislation may seem to empower the individual voters and result in a more direct form of direct democracy . Voter initiatives have proven to have a tendency to cripple state budget processes and make the legislation process extremely chaotic and unmanageable. Voter initiative may also be used to work against civil rights issues. In civil rights arena, the majority is not always right as proven by the struggle for civil rights of many groups throughout our history. Voter initiatives process also lend itself for abusive practices via excessive PR expenditures to influence votes. NASW-RI believes that in order to make effective legislation it must be done in a controlled setting in order to be debated and for compromises to be reached. Voter initiatives sidestep this process and are not desirable in our opinion.

H – 7416

BY: Menard, Flaherty, Malik, Winfield, Ucci

ENTITLED: AN ACT RELATING TO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES -- REGULATION OF SALES

This act would hold all persons who provide alcohol to any person under age 21, or permits persons under age 21 to consume alcohol on their property criminally responsible and not just adults or person over age 21.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

H-7424

BY: Kilmartin

ENTITLED: Relating to Criminal Offenses—Enticement of Children

Introduced February 12, 2008, referred to House Judiciary. This act would increase the penalties for the enticement of children from a misdemeanor to a felony.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

H – 7441

BY: Representatives DeSimone, Slater, Singleton, and giannini

ENTITLED: **RELATING TO INSURANCE- INTERNAL NUTRITION PRODUCTS**

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

This act would require insurance providers in the state to provide coverage for external nutrition products when determined to be medically necessary and ordered by a physician.

H-7444

BY: Winfield, Pacheco and Church

ENTITLED: Relating to Health and Safety—Promotion of Paper Bag Use

Introduced February 13, 2008, referred to House Environment and Natural Resources. This act would prohibit retail establishments located and doing business within the state from using plastic bags. The act would permit the use of paper or other biodegradable materials.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

We strongly support the eliminatin of use of plastic bags in the state, however would like ot see an amendment allowing the use of plastic bags the product requireses such use.

H – 7547

BY: Lally

ENTITLED: RELATING TO MILITARY AFFAIRS AND DEFENSE – PAY AND ALLOWANCES. This act would require all cities and towns to maintain health care benefits for all members of the National Guard and Reserve (and their dependents) who are called to active duty.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion: This bill would require all cities and towns to maintain health care benefits for members of the National Guard and Reserve that are called to active duty. NASW-RI strongly supports National Guard and Reserve members' benefits and fully supports this bill.

H-7454

BY: Segal

ENTITLED: Making an Appropriation of \$150,000 to the Department of Human Services

Introduced February 13, 2008, referred to House Finance. This act would authorize the appropriation of the sum of \$150,000 to the Department of Human Services.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

NASW-RI supports funding to the Department of Human Services for food stamp outreach.

H – 7457

BY: Ajello, Segal, Handy, Rice and Walsh

ENTITLED: RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT – STATE POLICE

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

Added Language as follows helps to identify trans-gendered individuals as well as others: identity or expression which includes a person's actual or perceived gender, as well as a person's gender identity, gender-related self image, gender-related appearance, or gender-related expression, whether or not that gender identity, gender-related self image, gender-related appearance, or gender-related expression is different from that traditionally associated with the person's sex at birth

H – 7461

BY: Representatives Amaral, Ucci, Loughlin, Singleton, and Long

ENTITLED:

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

This act would consolidate Rhode Island College and CCRI into the University of Rhode Island and become effective July 1, 2009.

H-7463

BY: Baldelli-Hunt

ENTITLED: Relating to Education—Health and Safety of Pupils

Introduced February 13, 2008, referred to House Health, Education and Welfare. This act would direct the governing bodies of each school to develop a policy designed to provide a safe environment for students with peanut, tree nut, or other food allergies. This act would also repeal the current provisions requiring the postings of notices in schools regarding the presence of children with such food allergies.

Executive Director's Recommendation

X Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

H-7473

BY: Story, Long, Savage, Watson, Coaty

ENTITLED: Relating to Elections—Conduct of Election and Voting Equipment and Supplies

Introduced February 13, 2008, referred to House Judiciary. This act would require every person, before they receive their ballot, to produce either one form of identification with their name, address, and photograph, or two forms of identification that bear the name and address of that person.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

H - 7467

A N A C T RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY - BREASTFEEDING - PROMOTES THE INTERESTS OF MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH

Introduced By: Representatives Naughton, McNamara, E Coderre, and Dennigan

Breast feeding n public.

Executive Director's Recommendation

X Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

Breast feeding is one of the most nature human activity. Women should not be made to re-locate to inconvenient places to feed their hungry baby. Delays in berstfeeding cause unnecessary stress on their baby. Government support shown through this bill would helped the pulbic ot adjust to eh activity.

H-7474

BY: Almeida

ENTITLED: Relating to Criminal Procedure--Arrest

Introduced February 13, 2008, referred to House Judiciary. This act would require the electronic recording of custodial interrogations in their entirety in cases where the potential sentence is one of life imprisonment.

Executive Director's Recommendation

X Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

There have been cases of errors and accidental bias related to interrogation activities. Electronic recording would help mitigate these factors in this very important outcome for the defendant.

H - 7477

BY: Picard, Coaty and Gorham

ENTITLED: RELATING TO INITIATIVE AND REFERENDUM

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

Voter initiative "initiative". NASW - RI opposes voter imitative due to the influence this process comes under by heavily funded concerns and the de-stabilization affect it can have on human services through under thought out tax cuts. Voter initiative may also

work against certain civil rights efforts. The “Majority:” is not always right.

H – 7479

BY: Giannini, Mattiello, Ferri, Rice, and Gallison

ENTITLED: Relating to criminal offenses – trafficking of persons and involuntary servitude

This act would criminalize forced commercial sexual activity.

Executive Director’s Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

NASW - RI is against any kind of slavery, forced or coerced labor. This is a fundamental concept outlined in many United States principles.

H-7493

BY: Ferri, Lweiss, Baldelli-Hunt, Malik and Winfield

ENTITLED: Relating to Insurance—Health Insurance Market Expansion

Introduced February 13, 2008, referred to House Corporations. This act would establish a regional health insurance market between Rhode Island, Massachusetts and Connecticut.

Executive Director’s Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

NASW - RI strongly opposes this legislation based on the belief that healthcare access needs to become more government assured and less dependent on competitive market forces. If one believes healthcare is a right and not a privilege then this bill does not work. As Alexander Hamilton once stated in 1788 when asked “Why has government been instituted at all?” He said: “Because the passions of men will not conform to the dictates of reason and justice, without constraint.” We believe this principle applies to healthcare.

H – 7508

BY: Lewiss, Kennedy, E Coderre, McNamara, and Shanley

ENTITLED: Relating to insurance

This act would provide that health providers, when treating a non-resident, be reimbursed at a rate which is the greater of the rate established by the health insurer in Rhode Island or by health insurers in the state of the non-resident. This act would also provide that health providers, when treating a resident of the state, be reimbursed at a rate which is the greater of the rate established by the health insurer in Rhode Island or by health insurers doing business on contiguous or adjacent county over from the policyholder’s residence.

Executive Director’s Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

NASW - RI has a IRS status as a C-6 Professional organization and is prohibited by federal anti-trust law and cannot comment on this legislation unless it affects consumer access.

H – 7511

BY: Church, Baldelli-Hunt, Segal, and Slater

ENTITLED: Relating to businesses and professions – physicians

This act would grant physicians immunity from ordinary negligence when they offer free care in free clinics for the poor.

Executive Director’s Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

H-7523

BY: Walsh, Segal, Gallison, Lewiss and Silva

ENTITLED: Relating to Motor and Other Vehicles—Amend the Environmental Conservation Law, in Relation to Vehicle Global Warming Index Table.

Introduced February 26, 2008, referred to House Environment and Natural Resources. This act would require automobile and light-truck manufacturers to affix a label on all new vehicles offered for sale contain a global warming index detailing its carbon dioxide and other global warming gases.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

H-7524

BY: Sullivan, Winfield, O'Neill, Melo and Segal

ENTITLED: Relating to Motor and Other Vehicles—Diesel Emissions Reduction Act

Introduced February 26, 2008, referred to House Environment and Natural Resources. This act would expand the diesel emissions reduction act in several regards, including the requirement that new state contracts and newly contracted waste haulers incorporate new technologies and use ultra low sulfur diesel fuel.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

H-7533

BY: Carter, Gallison, Fellela, Serpa and Moffitt

ENTITLED: Exempting From Taxation the Real, Mixed and Personal Property of Ring Retirees Association

Introduced February 26, 2008, referred to House Finance. This act would allow purchase of all materials used to build, promote and dedicate a Memorial to the Rhode Island National Guard at the Rhode Island Veterans' Memorial Cemetery in Exeter, Rhode Island for the RING Retirees Association, a domestic non-profit corporation shall be exempt from all state and local taxes so long as said property and purchases shall be used for the aforementioned said purpose.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

H-7534

BY: Ucci and Winfield

ENTITLED: Relating to Public and Officers Employees—Retirement System—Contributions and Benefits

Introduced February 26, 2008, referred to House Finance. This act would change the number of days a state retiree may be employed or reemployed to not more than one hundred fifty days or three hundred half days with half pay.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

H – 7537

BY: Winfield, Kennedy, Williams, Gablinske and Menard

ENTITLED: RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT. This act would prohibit departments and agencies from imposing a surcharge for online transactions.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion: NASW-RI agrees with the notion that a surcharge for online transactions between state departments and agencies is uncalled for and fully supports this bill.

H – 7538

BY: Menard, Church, and Winfield

ENTITLED: Relating to taxation – Sales and use taxes – Liability and computation

This act would repeal the exemption of sales and use taxes for municipal economic development zones.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

Unless the economic free zones can be proven in advance and with guaranteed, a tax expenditure of this type can not be afforded at this time.

H-7543

BY: Loughlin, McManus, Ehrhardt, Story and Amaral

ENTITLED: Relating to Education—Uniform Teachers Contracts

Introduced February 26, 2008, referred to House Finance. This act would require the creation of a uniform statewide teacher contract for all teachers newly hired after July 1, 2009. this act would provide that such teachers would be eligible to participate in a defined contribution plan to be established by the retirement board, and would not participate in the current defined benefit plan system,

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

H-7544

BY: Loughlin, Story, Long and Amaral

ENTITLED: Relating to State Aid

Introduced February 26, 2008, referred to House Finance. This act would provide an annual appropriation to cities and towns for the cost of education of student in DCYF group homes.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

H – 7545

BY: Walsh, Handy, Jackson, Jacquard, and Rice

ENTITLED: An Act Relating to Education

This act would require the state to annually pay for the tuition and related costs for students attending a state elementary or secondary vocational educational school. The payments would be made directly to the respective schools.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

House Bill No.7550

BY Sullivan, O'Neill, Moffitt

ENTITLED: ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- PHARMACEUTICAL ASSISTANCE TO THE ELDERLY ACT

(Promote coordination of benefits between the elderly pharmaceutical assistance program and Medicare Part D prescription drug plan)

Executive Director's Recommendations

X Support Non Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

H – 7551

BY: Reresentatives Sullivan, O'Neill, Melo, Moffitt

ENTITLED: **RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES MEDICAL ASSISTANCE- LONG TERM CARE SERVICE AND FINANCE REFORM**

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

This act would mandate fifty percent of the Medicaid long-term care funding be utilized on home and community based care.

H – 7556

BY: Church, Fox, Handy, Silva, and Slater

ENTITLED: An Act Relating to Human Services – Food Stamp Employment and Training Programs

Executive Director's Recommendation

X Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

NASW -RI strongly supports bringing in federal funds to extent education and vocational training opportunities to individuals in need. The living wage for a family of three last year was \$20.19 and hour. The General Educational Preparation for this level of job is two to five years.

H – 7561

BY: Representatives McNamara, Mumford, Corvese, and Kilmartin

ENTITLED: **RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY- DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

This act would establish the Rhode Island patient safety and quality improvement act of 2008. The goals of this act would be to promote safety, reduce medical errors, and encourage better reporting of medical errors and related incidents. NASW-RI supports legislation that has consumer protection in mind. It is in the interest of all Rhode Islanders to receive top quality medical care and this legislation helps to ensure that this remains a reality in our hospitals.

House Bill No.7562

BY Palumbo, Schadone, Mattiello, Melo, Brien

ENTITLED: ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- WOMEN'S RIGHT TO KNOW ACT

Executive Director's Recommendations

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

H-7563

BY: Rice, Melo, Walsh, Segal and Wasylyk

ENTITLED: Relating to Education—Transportation of School Pupils Beyond City and Town Limits

Introduced February 26, 2008, referred to House Health, Education and Welfare. This act would require the department of elementary and secondary education to address out-of-district transportation for non-special education students in its comprehensive plan proposal to the extent such transportation is required under this chapter.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose X Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

NASW-RI is monitoring, no analysis has been developed at this time regarding the impact.

H – 7564

BY: Rice, Melo, Segal, Wasylyk

ENTITLED: AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION - TEXTBOOKS

This act would require that textbooks are loaned in a manner that provides equity to both public and non public school pupils.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor X More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

H – 7565

BY: Rice, Melo, Walsh, Ajello, and Segal

ENTITLED: An Act Relating to Education – Cooperative Service Among School Districts

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor X More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

H – 7568

BY: Loughlin, Long, and Amaral

ENTITLED: Relating to education – Curriculum

This act would provide that high school students would be able to earn credits towards graduation through completion of a Red Cross class or for at least six (6) weeks of work as a state or municipal lifeguard.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

H – 7569

BY: Representatives Giannini, Slater, Almeida, Gallison, and Lima

ENTITLED: An Act Relating to Education – Health and Safety of Pupils. Introduced on February 26, 2008 and referred to House Health, Education & Welfare.

This act would provide that incorporated into the training programs in a given school district or public school shall be teaching pupils to resolve conflict without violence, training school staff to promote conflict resolution, use mediation techniques and early detection

to reduce incidents of violence and lastly to empower students upon graduation to be positive, productive members of society.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

NASW supports programs that promote the non-violent resolution of conflict. NASW believes this program will have positive affects on the children of the state.

H – 7571

BY: Representatives Dennigan, Church, Ajello, Fox, Slater

ENTITLED: JOINT RESOLUTION- CREATING A SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION TO STUDY AND ESTABLISH HEALTH CARE REFORM MODELS TO EXPAND HEALTH CARE COVERAGE AND TO DECREASES HEALTH CARE COSTS FOR RHODE ISLAND RESIDENTS

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

This act would create the Rhode Island Anchor Community Commission for Healthcare Reform, a 24 member legislative study to research and report on healthcare reform models to expand coverage and make coverage less expensive for Rhode Islanders. NASW-RI supports healthcare reform with the goals of expanding coverage while simultaneously reducing costs. NASW-RI supports universal health care coverage and urges legislators to consider such a model to solving the healthcare crisis in the state of Rhode Island.

H-7574

BY: Lewis, Dennigan, Church, McNamara and Kennedy

ENTITLED: Relating to Businesses and Professions—Board of Medical Licensure and Discipline

Introduced February 26, 2008, referred to House Health, Education and Welfare. This act would require full disclosure if a physician refers a patient for physical therapy to a facility owned by the physician or operated by employees of the physician.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

H - 7576

A N A C T RELATING TO BUSINESSES AND PROFESSIONS -- PHARMACIES

This act would establish a program of loan guarantees or interest subsidies within the Rhode Island housing and mortgage finance corporation for the purpose of making home modifications to the primary residence of persons who have a disability, or age 65 or older, or are the caregiver of a family member with a disability or age 65 or older; for the purpose of improved accessibility to allow such persons to live more independently in the community.

By: Representatives Ajello, Rice, Walsh, Dennigan, and E Coderre

Date Introduced: February 26, 2008

Referred To: House Health, Education & Welfare

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

This act would set forth procedures for pharmacists concerning dispensing prescription and over-the-counter contraceptive drugs. NASW-RI fully supports a woman's right to choose and believes that if requested, women should be able to receive the contraceptive drugs of their choice. NASW-RI respects pharmacists personal or religious beliefs, but believes that there should be an alternate venue

H – 7579

BY: Giannini, E Coderre, Lima, Slater, and Rice

ENTITLED: Relating to criminal offenses – Prostitution and lewdness

This act would define the crime of prostitution to include any location, would create punishments for individuals who would attempt to procure the services of a prostitute, and would define the crime of permitting prostitution within a premise.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

H-7583

BY: Almeida, Diaz, Mattiello and Ferri

ENTITLED: Relating to Criminal Procedures—Sentencing and Execution

Introduced February 26, 2008, referred to House Judiciary. This act would require the records of deferred sentences, dismissals under rule 48(a), or a not guilty finding by a judge or jury after trial, to be automatically quashed and destroyed, if upon completion of five year period after acceptance of the deferred sentence, no action has been taken on the case. Further, all records relating to the case would be expunged under chapter 12-13.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

H-7584

BY: Lewis, Dennigan, Church, Walsh and Kennedy

ENTITLED: Relating to Courts and Civil Procedure—Procedure Generally—Cause of Action—Good Samaritans

Introduced February 26, 2008, referred to House Judiciary. This act would exempt from civil liability services performed without compensation by dental and dental hygienists at free dental clinics.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

NASW-RI is monitoring, no analysis has been developed at this time regarding the impact.

H – 7585

BY: Story, Savage, Long, Ucci, and Menard

ENTITLED: An Act Relating to Alcoholic Beverages –Regulation of Sales

This act would make it illegal for any minor to purchase an alcoholic beverage.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

H – 7588

BY: Singleton, and DeSimone

ENTITLED: Relating to criminal offenses – Disorderly conduct

This act would prohibit any school employee from possessing any obscene matter or obscene device on school grounds.

Executive Director’s Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

H – 7589

BY: Singleton, DeSimone, Menard, Palumbo, and Brien

ENTITLED: Relating to criminal procedure – Sentence and execution

This act would require the Rhode Island department of corrections to notify the United States Department of Immigration and Customs Enforcement Agency (ICE) of any prisoner in its custody who is illegally in this country or in violation of the immigration laws of the United States.

Executive Director’s Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

House Bill No.7590

BY Singleton, Palumbo, Menard, Brien, Gablinske

ENTITLED: ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO CRIMINAL PROCEDURE -- ARREST

(would require an arresting agency to report the detention or arrest of any juvenile believed to be in the United States illegally to the United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement Agency)

Executive Director's Recommendations

Support Non Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

H – 7591

BY: Representatives Singelton, Palumbo, Menard, Brien, and Gablinske

ENTITLED: **RELATING TO TOWNS AND CITIES- LOW AND MODERATE INCOME HOUSING**

Executive Director’s Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

This act would limit eligibility for low and moderate income housing to those who legally reside in the state of Rhode Island. NASW-RI supports comprehensive immigration reform and is disheartened at the current tone of the legislature in the regard. This law has the potential to create a public health hazard if implemented. While NASW-RI realizes that Rhode Island is currently experiencing a shortage of affordable housing we believe that the proper response is to create more affordable housing by restructuring the tax code to bring in more revenues, not by discriminating against people because of their ethnicity.

H-7593

BY: Singleton, Palumbo, Brien, Menard and Gablinske

ENTITLED: Relating to Criminal Offenses—Theft, Embezzlement, and Misappropriation

Introduced February 26, 2008, referred to House Judiciary. This act would make it a felony for any state or municipal employee to knowingly provide and/or assist in the procurement of any document, information, or state benefits to anyone illegally residing or living within the state of Rhode Island.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

Helps create an atmosphere of "xenophobia" among the public potentially harming all newly arrived individuals to this country and RI.

H – 7595

BY: Singleton, Palumbo, Brien, Gablinske, and Menard

ENTITLED: An Act Relating to Labor and Labor Relations – Employment Security Benefits

This act would disqualify individuals who are neither American citizens or legal permanent residents from receiving unemployment benefits.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

Helps create an atmosphere of "xenophobia" among the public potentially harming all newly arrived individuals to this country and RI.

H – 7596

BY: Singleton, Palumbo, Brien, Ehrhardt, and Gablinske

ENTITLED: An Act Relating to Criminal Procedure – Criminal Law, State, Federal and Local Cooperation

This act would require state and local law enforcement authorities to cooperate with the federal government on immigration matters.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

Helps create an atmosphere of "xenophobia" among the public potentially harming all newly arrived individuals to this country and RI.

H – 7597

BY: Singleton, Palumbo, Brien, Gablinske and Menard

ENTITLED: RELATING TO LABOR AND LABOR RELATIONS – ILLEGAL IMMIGRANT WORKERS

This act would make it a state offense to employ an illegal immigrant within the state and impose a fine on the employer, the proceeds of which to be shared between the state police and the person providing information which leads to an investigation.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

Helps create an atmosphere of "xenophobia" among the public potentially harming all newly arrived individuals to this country and RI.

House Bill No.7600

BY Ferri, Segal, Ajello, Williams, Handy

ENTITLED: ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO LABOR AND LABOR RELATIONS -- REMEDIES

(would allow the director of the department of labor and training to pursue a complaint on behalf of any employee or job applicant for violation of labor laws and to seek appropriate remedies)

Executive Director's Recommendations

Support Non Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

H-7614

BY: Winfield, Ucci and Sullivan

ENTITLED: Relating to Towns and Cities—Local Planning Board or Commission

Introduced February 26, 2008, referred to House Municipal Government. This act would require all cities and towns, to examine the use of alternative energy and to employ methods of conservation in their comprehensive plans for growth and construction.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

H – 7625

BY: Segal, Diaz, Slater, and Almeida

ENTITLED: An Act Relating to Human Services – Child Care

This act would provide on October 1, 2008 a one-time reimbursement of \$500 to all child care providers who are serving department of human services subsidized children as of that date.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

H – 7626

BY: Segal, Church, E Coderre, Sullivan, and Diaz

ENTITLED: An Act Relating to Health and Safety – Licensing of Health Care Facilities

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

House Bill No.7628

BY Walsh, Handy, Williams, Jacquard, Ajello

ENTITLED: ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES

(make it the policy of the state that foster care children be the responsibility of the state until they reach their 21st birthday or at the end of a school year at an institution of higher education within which they reach their 21st birthday)

Executive Director's Recommendations

Support Non Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

Children in state care often have tumultuous and unstable lives during that care. All children continue to mature well into their mid to late 20's. Most children continue to receive support and nurturing at least until age 21 by their natural parents. Because of the above factors, children in state care should continue to receive various form of support at least until their 21 birthday if not longer.

House Bill No.7630

BY Dennigan, Segal, Handy, Ajello, Ferri

ENTITLED: ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- PROMOTION OF PAPER BAG USAGE

(impose a tax equal to one cent (\$0.01) for plastic bags used by consumers for grocery and other purposes)

Executive Director's Recommendations

Support Non Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

NASW - RI favors and exclusion to plastic bag use.

House Bill No.7632

BY Trillo

ENTITLED: ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO GENERAL ASSEMBLY -- ORGANIZATION OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY

(prohibit members of the general assembly holding a leadership position from doing business or entering into a contract with the state of RI)

Executive Director's Recommendations

Support Non Support Oppose Monitor X More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

H-7634

BY: Lewiss

ENTITLED: Relating to Education—School Construction Aid

Introduced February 26, 2008, referred to House Finance. This act would require a local community which sells a school building to reimburse the state for aid that particular school building received under the school housing aid law.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

H – 7635

BY: Winfield, Ucci, Flaherty, and Menard

ENTITLED: An Act Relating to Taxation Exemption for Veterans

This act would give cities and towns the option of entirely exempting the homestead real estate of a disabled veteran or his or her surviving spouse from taxation.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor X More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

H – 7636

BY: Schadone, Dennigan, Rice, Gemma, and Corvese

ENTITLED: An Act Relating to Taxation – Education Tax Credit for Nurses

Executive Director’s Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

H-7644

BY: Lally

ENTITLED: Relating to Courts and Civil Procedure—Procedure in Particular Actions Indigent Defense Services

Introduced February 26, 2008, referred to House Finance. This act would transfer payment for indigent defense services from the court to the department of administration consistent with the doctrine of separation of powers.

Executive Director’s Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

H – 7649

BY: Representatives Long, Handy, and Ajello

ENTITLED: An Act Relating to Education. Introduced on February 26, 2008 and referred to House Health, Education and Welfare

This act would prohibit the sale, consumption, or possession of “energy drinks” on school campuses in Rhode Island.

Executive Director’s Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

H-7653

BY: Carter, Gallison, Fellela and Rose

ENTITLED: Relating to Human Services—Public Assistance Act

Introduced February 26, 2008, referred to House Judiciary. This act would make United States citizenship a requirement for eligibility for receiving any form of public assistance.

Executive Director’s Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

H – 7658

BY: Nicholas Gorham

ENTITLED: Relating to criminal offenses – Sexual offender registration

This act would require all incarcerated defendants who are required to register pursuant to the sexual offender registration requirements to perform their initial registration prior to being released from confinement.

Executive Director’s Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

H – 7660

BY: Segal, Diaz, Almeida, Slater, and Dennigan

ENTITLED: RELATING TO IMMIGRANT STATUS

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Not Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

This act would restrict inquiries into individual immigration status.

H-7664

BY: Gorham and Mumford

ENTITLED: Relating to Labor and Labor Relations—Government Employee Bargaining

Introduced February 26, 2008, referred to House Labor. This act would strictly limit the subjects that authorize government employee bargaining units can include in their contracts to wages and benefits.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

NASW-RI is monitoring, no analysis has been developed at this time regarding the impact.

H – 7689

BY: Representatives Slater, Diaz, DeSimone, and Williams

ENTITLED: An Act Relating to Human Services – Mental Health, Retardation, and Hospitals. Introduced on February 26, 2008 and referred to House Finance.

This act would require the director of mental health, retardation, and hospitals to maintain a step up/step down unit.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

H – 7691

BY: Representative Steven F. Smith

ENTITLED: **RELATING TO EDUCATION- SCHOOL SPEECH AND LANGUAGE PATHOLOGISTS**

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

This legislation would require school districts to employ one full-time speech language pathologists for every forty students receiving

speech language services.

H-7693

BY: Smith

ENTITLED: Relating to Education

Introduced February 26, 2008, referred to House Finance. This act would act would establish an Alternative School Pilot Program to be adopted by the board of regents of elementary and secondary education and the local school committees for the purpose of educating children who have been expelled from school or have otherwise been determined to be unsuitable for attendance at a regular school.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

H-7694

BY: Williams, Slater, Segal, Handy and Ajello

ENTITLED: Relating to State Affairs and Government—Distressed Areas Economic Revitalization Act

Introduced February 26, 2008, referred to House Finance. This act would allows the designation of federal enterprise zone, enterprise community or state enterprise upon specific request of a governing authority.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

H – 7695

BY: Williams, Ajello, Almieda, Slater, and Segal

ENTITLED: AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION -- JOB CREATION THROUGH EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM

This act would provide a tax credit to reimburse Rhode Island residents for educational loan payments.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

H – 7700

BY: Slater, Diaz, Almeida, Williams, and Dennigan

ENTITLED: RELATING TO PROPERTY – RESIDENTIAL LANDLORD AND TENANT ACT

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Not Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

This act would provide that no landlord or agent of the landlord may make an inquiry, regarding immigration or citizenship status of a tenant, prospective tenant, occupant or prospective occupant nor may it be required that any of the above-mentioned make any statement, representation, nor certification concerning his or her immigration status to the landlord or agent of the landlord.

House Bill No.7701

BY Slater, Diaz, Almeida, Williams, Dennigan

ENTITLED: ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO ELECTIONS -- ELECTION OFFENSES

(regulate political signs, i.e., no signs on business or commercial property)

Executive Director's Recommendations

XSupport

Non Support

Oppose

Monitor

More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

H – 7705

BY: Segal

ENTITLED: AN ACT RELATING TO THE WITHDRAWAL OF THE RHODE ISLAND NATIONAL GUARD MILITARY FORCES FROM IRAQ AND THE FEDERAL DEPLOYMENT OF THE NATIONAL GUARD

This act would provide that the general assembly call on the governor to withdraw all members of the Rhode Island National Guard from Iraq.

Executive Director's Recommendation

X Support

Conditional Support

Oppose

Monitor

More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

H – 7706

BY: Almeida, Diaz, Handy, Ajello, Williams

ENTITLED: AN ACT RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES - COMPREHENSIVE RACIAL PREVENTION PROFILING ACT OF 2008

This act would amend the law banning racial profiling in traffic stops by state and municipal law enforcement agencies.

Executive Director's Recommendation

X Support

Conditional Support

Oppose

Monitor

More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

H – 7711

BY: Representatives McCauley, Walsh, Ajello, Singelton, Segal

ENTITLED: **RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES- DOMESTIVE PARTNERS**

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support

Conditional Support

Oppose

Monitor

More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

This legislation would recognize domestic partners and would clearly define the class of persons covered by the parental and family medical leave act. In addition it would recognize the rights of domestic partners for purpose of funeral arrangement planning and nursing home accommodations. NASW-RI supports this legislation because it begins to move Rhode Island in the direction of proving equal rights for all persons, regardless of marital status. The law has discriminated against LGBT persons for a long time in the state of Rhode Island in regards to benefits afforded under the family and medical leave act and it is time we put that discrimination to an end.

H-7714

BY: Smith

ENTITLED: Relating to Education—Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education

Introduced February 26, 2008, referred to House Health, Education and Welfare. This act would give the board of regents for elementary and secondary education the authority to require parents of chronically disruptive students to attend conferences.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

This act would create unnecessary tension and dynamics within many families struggle to handle the complexities of modern day life. Other potential unintended consequences may include , parents inability to attend due to work schedules, potential ill effects of parent child resentment, etc. Schools need to provide the necessary support for students who are having difficulty, to arrange their schedules to meet the parents needs and to understanding that not all child behavior is the result of poor parenting skills.

H – 7715

BY: Lally, Shanley

ENTITLED: AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION - CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

This act would clarify the responsibilities of a municipality in regard to transportation of children with special needs/responsibilities regarding the provision of a free/appropriate public education to those special needs students in a private school.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

H-7723

BY: Singleton, Moffitt, Corvese, and McCauley

ENTITLED: Relating to Property—Reverse Mortgages

Introduced February 26, 2008, referred to House Corporations. This act would create new requirements and guidelines in the application process for mortgagors offering reverse loan mortgages, including counseling provisions, disclosures requirements to the prospective mortgagee, and guidelines for legal action in the event of a default on the reverse loan mortgage.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

Reverse mortgage have been extremely problematic to some elderly who have outlived their available equity.

House Bill No.7736

BY Story

ENTITLED: ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO DELINQUENT AND DEPENDENT CHILDREN - PROCEEDINGS IN FAMILY COURT

(clarify what types of information private agencies can receive from state and federal criminal background checks on individuals interested in becoming foster and/or adoptive parents)

Executive Director's Recommendations

Support Non Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

House Bill No.7738

BY Singleton

ENTITLED: ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION -- BILINGUAL EDUCATION

(require all instruction in public schools grades kindergarten through and including grade 12 to be in English)

Executive Director's Recommendations

Support

Non Support

Oppose

Monitor

More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

NASW-RI views this legislation as not recognizing the learning difficulties of new groups to RI and definitely does not recognize diversity of Rhode Island residents. Although the bill's manifest goal is to help facilitate the learning of the English language for non-English speaking residents, an unintended outcome of this type of legislation has been used to promote discrimination in other states.

H-7744

BY: Moffitt and Long

ENTITLED: Relating to Military Affairs and Defense

Introduced February 26, 2008, referred to House Judiciary. This act would allow the Rhode Island National Guard to participate in the forfeiture of money and assets seized through counterdrug operations in which members of the Guard support federal, state or municipal efforts.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support

Conditional Support

Oppose

Monitor

More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

House Bill No.7751

BY Shanley, Costantino, O'Neill, Almeida

ENTITLED: ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO CRIMINALS -- CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTIONS -- PAROLE

(modify parole standards based on the likelihood of recidivism and would modify time earned for good behavior and meritorious service)

Executive Director's Recommendations

Support

Non Support

Oppose

x

Monitor

More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

H - 7746

BY: Trillo

ENTITLED: AN ACT RELATING TO WORKERS' COMPENSATION - ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS

This act would exclude illegal immigrants who are not authorized to work in the United States from coverage under the workers' compensation law.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support

Conditional Support

Oppose

Monitor

More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

House Bill No.7552

BY Dennigan, Lewiss, Church, Rose, Ajello

ENTITLED: ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO PUBLIC PROPERTY AND WORKS -- ESTABLISHING A GREEN BUILDINGS ACT

(require all public buildings, including schools, to be constructed or renovated, to meet standards established by the United States Green Building Council Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design green building rating silver standard)

Executive Director's Recommendations

X Support Non Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

H-7754

BY: Gorham and Long

ENTITLED: Relating to Domestic Relations—Child Support Enforcement

Introduced February 26, 2008, referred to House Judiciary. This act would keep a child support order in full force and effect by wage withholding after the youngest child is emancipated to pay arrearage and automatically terminate said order when the arrearage is paid.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

H-7773

BY: Ferri, Slater, Dennigan, Ajello and Segal

ENTITLED: Relating to Labor and Labor Relations—Fair Employment Practices

Introduced February 26, 2008, referred to House Judiciary. This act would protect an employer from an alleged unlawful employment practice suit for requiring an employee to provide documents required by a federal employment verification system law.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

H-7774

BY: Moffitt

ENTITLED: Relating to Military Affairs and Defense

Introduced February 26, 2008, referred to House Labor. This act would permit the spouse or parent of a service person to obtain leave from work while the service person is on military duty.

Executive Director's Recommendation

X Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

House Bill No.7791

BY Moffitt, Mumford, Story, Singleton, Loughlin

ENTITLED: ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES -- PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

(require the department of human services to establish a community service requirement as a condition for receipt of public assistance benefits)

Executive Director's Recommendations

Support Non Support x Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

Welfare recipients already do not have enough training time to obtain a job with a living wage. This act would greatly reduce this time. See testimony n Articles 16 & 17 posted at www.rinasw.info

House Resolution No.7781

BY Gorham, Ehrhardt, Coaty, Watson, Loughlin

ENTITLED: ENTITLED, JOINT RESOLUTION TO APPROVE AND PUBLISH A PROPOSITION OF AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE (Lower number of representatives form 75 ot 30.)

Executive Director's Recommendations

Support Non Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

Drastically reduces the number of representatives would require redistricting which generally lowers minority representation and in our opinion would reduce diversity within the House.

H-7804

BY: Lewiss, Dennigan, Slater, Walsh and Handy

ENTITLED: Relating to Insurance—Nonprofit Dental Service Corporations

Introduced February 26, 2008, referred to House Corporations. This act would prohibit a nonprofit service corporation from enacting any rule which would prohibit a claim for service to a patient within a two year period.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

H – 7805

BY: Handy, Pacheco

ENTITLED: AN ACT RELATING TO PUBLIC UTILITIES AND CARRIERS - TERMINATION OF SERVICE TO NON-CUSTOMER OCCUPANTS

This act would require utilities to comply with special notice requirements for termination of services to non-customer users. Violators would be subject to a fine of \$100 per day for each violation.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

H – 7806

BY: Rice, Kennedy, Fox, Segal, Ajello

ENTITLED: AN ACT RELATING TO PUBLIC UTILITIES AND CARRIERS -- DUTIES OF UTILITIES AND CARRIERS

This act would establish a municipal renewable energy fund for the purpose of providing grants for municipal renewable energy projects.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

H-7813

BY: Rice, Handy and Ajello

ENTITLED: Relating to Health and Safety—Children’s Product Safety Act

Introduced February 26, 2008, referred to House Health, Education and Welfare. This act would prohibit the manufacturing, sale or distribution of certain toys or child care articles containing bisphenol-A or certain phthalates; requiring a person to use the least toxic alternative and prohibiting a person from using certain carcinogens or certain reproductive toxicants in child care articles and/or toys.

Executive Director’s Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

H-7814

BY: Walsh, Ajello, Dennigan, Naughton and Ferri

ENTITLED: Relating to Education

Introduced February 26, 2008, referred to House Health, Education and Welfare. This act would expand the areas of instruction in health and physical education for children in grades kindergarten through twelve (12) who attend public schools to include instruction in human development and sexuality.

Executive Director’s Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

This bill would help ensure the safety of age appropriate children including danger from sexually transmitted disease.

House Bill No.7821

BY Schadone

ENTITLED: ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO CRIMINAL PROCEDURE - RECORDS

(make changes to the statute allowing for the expungement of certain criminal records)

Executive Director's Recommendations

Support Non Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

There are many more offences now be labeled as a felony, many non violent and at one time considered minor or moderate. Judgement should still be taken into consideration during the expungement process to maintain records of the more serious felony conviction. This author (RH) has professional experience with several first time felony offenders where not letting the expungement process occur is counter productive in the rehabilitation processes.

H – 7836

BY: Melo, Schadone, Mattiello, Brien, McCauley

ENTITLED: AN ACT RELATING TO CRIMINAL OFFENSES - BURGLARY AND BREAKING AND ENTERING

This bill would clarify, delineate and increase penalties for breaking and entering.

Executive Director’s Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

H – 7839

BY: Handy, Fox, Ajello, Gemma, and Almeida

ENTITLED: RELATING TO DOMESTIC RELATIONS – PERSONS ELIGIBLE TO MARRY

Executive Director’s Recommendation

Support Not Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

This act would broaden the definition of persons eligible to marry to include persons of the same gender. This act would also provide that members of the clergy would not be required to officiate at any particular marriage.

H-7843

BY: Costantino, Church, San Bento, Rose and Lewiss

ENTITLED: Relating to State Affairs and Government

Introduced February 26, 2008, referred to House Finance. This act would prohibit public corporations of the state from making charitable donations.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

NASW-RI is monitoring, no analysis has been developed at this time regarding the impact.

H-7844

BY: Costantino, Church, San Bento, Lewiss

ENTITLED: Relating to State Affairs and Government

Introduced February 26, 2008, referred to House Finance. This act would require that the names and compensation of those providing professional services to public corporations be made public.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

H- 7846

BY: Dennigan, Ferri, Handy and Silva

ENTITLED: Relating to Human Services—Family Independence Act. This would amend the poverty threshold for eligibility for child care assistance under the family independence act.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

H-7854

BY: Almeida, Handy, Williams and Segal

ENTITLED: Relating to Education—Educational Financing

Introduced February 26, 2008, referred to House Finance. This act would increase the limit on the yearly maximum increase city and town real estate tax levy for the years 2010 through 2013 and would also increase the yearly maximum school budget increase for the same years.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

The real issue here is how schools are funded which relies too heavily on property taxes. We reluctantly support this bill.

The two main issues here is an antiquated funding mechanism for public education and the cost shifting mechanism that the federal government has implemented for the past seven years. It is time that the governor of our state join others in insisting that the federal

government changes priorities to education and social programs relieving funds at the state level to help temporarily fix the issue that this bill is trying to address. Simultaneous, it is time to address the structural deficit by looking at other untapped or under tapped revenue streams that can be found in a number of tax expenditures, tax loop holes & the overall distribution of income tax among various tax categories.

H-7864

BY: Slater, Segal, Dennigan, Ferri and Lewiss

ENTITLED: Relating to Public Utilities and Carriers—Termination of Service to Persons Who Are Disabled or Seriously Ill

Introduced February 26, 2008, referred to House Corporations. This act would require that a determination shall be completed by CAP to see if a person is seriously ill or disabled so as to be exempt from shut off from the gas company.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

H – 7865

BY: Slater, Diaz, Almeida, Williams, Dennigan

ENTITLED: AN ACT RELATING TO INSURANCE

This act would provide for mandatory coverage of smoking cessation drugs, commonly known as Chantix or its generic substitute.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

Smoking is one of the most costly single behaviors/addiction impacting the healthcare system.

H-7873

BY: Slater, Segal, Ferri, Diaz and Almeida

ENTITLED: Relating to Taxation—Sales and Use of Taxes—Liability and Computation

Introduced February 26, 2008, referred to House Finance. This act would reduce the state sales tax rate from the current 7% to 4.5%, and would exclude medical and legal services, as well as food and clothing items sold for more than \$150, as taxable services and items.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

H – 7875

BY: Diaz, Segal, Almeida, Slater and Ajello

ENTITLED: Relating to Human Services—Health Insurance. This act would provide health insurance to children ineligible for federal medical assistance due to citizenship or alien requirements and to resident parents or caretakers of these children.

Executive Director's Recommendation

X Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

H-7883

BY: Handy

ENTITLED: Relating to Health and Safety—Air Pollution

Introduced February 26, 2008, referred to House Environment and Natural Resources. This act would prohibit the sale of wood and coal burning stoves that have not met certain efficiency standards, as adopted by the director of health and safety, to reduce the amount of air pollutants discharged into the air.)

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

H-7884

BY: Handy, Long, Dennigan, Ferri and Moffitt

ENTITLED: Relating to Health and Safety

Introduced February 26, 2008, referred to House Environment and Natural Resources. This act would create the Rhode Island Global Warming Solutions Act.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

H – 7886

BY: Diaz, Ajello, Slater, Almeida, Segal

ENTITLED: Relating to State Affairs and Government—Licensing and Monitoring of Child Care Providers and Child-Placing

Agencies. This act would authorize, based upon delays in the department's licensing unit, the granting of provisional licenses to child day care providers and child-placement agencies.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

H – 7889

BY: Representatives Fox, Jacquard, Kilmartin, and Diaz

ENTITLED: An Act Relating to State Affairs and Government. Introduced on February 26, 2008 and referred to Health, Education and Welfare.

This act would establish the Community College of Rhode Island twenty-first century work force commission.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

H-7893

BY: Handy, Almeida, Segal and Fox

ENTITLED: Relating to Healthy and Safety—Spousal Notice For Abortion

Introduced February 26, 2008, referred to House Judiciary. This act would repeal the requirement that physicians performing abortions notify the husband of the patient before the abortion is performed.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

NASW-RI fully supports a woman's right to choose. All women have the right to make choices regarding their reproductive health and rights, with or without notification and/or consent of their domestic partners. If a woman is in an abusive relationship, notifying her abuser/partner of an impending abortion could place her at significant physical or emotional risk.

H – 7895

BY: Diaz, Almeida, Slater and Ajello

ENTITLED: Relating to Criminal Offenses—Children. This act would prohibit sales of tobacco to persons under twenty-one years of age.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

H – 7896

BY: Baldelli-Hunt, Menard and Malik

ENTITLED: Relating to Motor and Other Vehicles—Motor Vehicle Offenses. This act would increase the penalties for those convicted of driving under the influence, resulting in death and driving under the influence, resulting in serious bodily injury.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

House Bill No.7898

BY Slater, Diaz, Almeida, Williams, Handy

ENTITLED: ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO CRIMINAL PROCEDURE

(allow the issuance of a court ordered certificate of rehabilitation. This certificate would enable those who have successfully completed their court-imposed sentences to more easily gain re-entry into society.)

Executive Director's Recommendations

Support Non Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

H – 7909

BY: Representatives Dennigan, Slater, Ferri, Naughton, and Lewiss

ENTITLED: Joint Resolution Creating a Special Legislative Commission to Study, Develop, a Strategy, and Promote Interoperability of all Aspects of Electronic Health Record Utilization in the State of Rhode Island. Introduced on February 26, 2008 and referred to House Corporations

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

H-7914

BY: Pacheco, Segal, Gablinske and Serpa

ENTITLED: Relating to Insurance—Small Employer Health Insurance Availability Act

Introduced February 26, 2008, referred to House Corporations. This act would allow small employer carriers to use employer group size as a rating factor. This act would also eliminated the use of "health status" as a rating factor.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

H – 7916

BY: Fox, Naughton, Rice, Handy and Segal

ENTITLED: Relating to Public Utilities and Carriers. This act would create long-term contracting standards for the development of renewable energy.

Executive Director's Recommendation

X Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

House Bill No.7918

BY Fox, Slater, Pacheco, Naughton, Kennedy

ENTITLED: ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- HOUSING RESOURCES - NEIGHBORHOOD OPPORTUNITIES PROGRAM

(establish and fund the neighborhood opportunities program to address the housing and revitalization needs of the state's deteriorating neighborhoods)

Executive Director's Recommendations

Support Non Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

H – 7922

BY: Dennigan, Handy, Slater, Diaz, and Ajello

ENTITLED: RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES – INTERPRETER SERVICES

Executive Director's Recommendation

✓ Support Not Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

This act would set forth various standards for the department of human services to properly ensure that persons who are not proficient in English are informed of receiving appropriate interpreter services in various languages.

H-7923

BY: Slater, Segal, Lewiss, Diaz and Almeida

ENTITLED: Relating to Human Services—Medical Assistance

Introduced February 26, 2008, referred to House Finance. This act would permit dentists who provide dental services to Medicaid-eligible residents of nursing facilities licensed to receive reimbursement for the services of at least the median of the fees paid to dentists by Blue Cross Blue Shield of Rhode Island, Delta Dental, and the rates reported by the American Dental Association for New England. It would help nursing facility residents to receive regular preventive, diagnostic cleaning and necessary basic restorative treatment.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

NASW -RI strongly opposes th is measure. All rates fro all providers providing services paid by Medicaid should be dealt withe the same manner. No one group should be singled out.

H-7924

BY: Slater, Lewiss, Diaz, Almeida and Ajello

ENTITLED: Relating to Health and Safety—Center for Health Professionals Act

Introduced February 26, 2008, referred to House Finance. This act would create the center for health professions. This act would also create student loan forgiveness programs for certain nursing professionals, a nursing education scholarship program, and a nursing faculty tax credit.

Executive Director’s Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose X Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

NASW-RI is monitoring, no analysis has been developed at this time regarding the impact.

H – 7939

BY: Fox, Handy, Sullivan, and Ajello

ENTITLED: RELATING TO COURTS AND CIVIL PROCEDURE – COURTS – FAMILY COUR

Executive Director’s Recommendation

✓ Support Not Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

This act would provide that regardless of whether or not parties are eligible to marry in Rhode Island they may petition here for a divorce proceeding as long as they meet our jurisdictional requirements and as long as the marriage or domestic relationship with substantially the same rights and obligations of marriage is recognized elsewhere. This act would take effect upon passage and would apply to any marriage or other domestic relationship granting substantially the same rights and obligations of marriage whether entered into before or after the effective date of this act.

H-7953

BY: Lewiss, Slater, Dennigan, Jackson and Naughton

ENTITLED: Relating to State Affairs and Government—The Development Subsidy Job Goals Accountability Act

Introduced February 26, 2008, referred to House Finance. This act would create the Development Subsidy Job Goals Accountability Act.

Executive Director’s Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose X Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

H-7954

BY: Segal, Slater, Williams and McCauley

ENTITLED: Relating to Human Services—Uncompensated Care—Federally Qualified Community Health Centers

Introduced February 26, 2008, referred to House Finance. This act would reallocate five percent (5%) of the federal funds paid to hospitals treating the indigent and uninsured to support local federally qualified health centers.

Executive Director’s Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose X Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

NASW-RI is monitoring, no analysis has been developed at this time regarding the impact.

H – 7959

BY: Representatives Lewiss, Jackson, and Scott

ENTITLED: An Act Relating to Taxation – Estate and Transfer Taxes – Liability. Introduced on February 26, 2008 and referred to House Finance.

This act would increase from \$675,000 to \$1,000,000 the allowable exclusion from net tax on the estate of a decedent.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

H-7963

BY: Naughton, McNamara, Ajello, Slater and Rice

ENTITLED: Relating to Health and Safety—Umbilical Cord Blood Donation Notification Act

Introduced February 26, 2008, referred to House Health, Education and Welfare. This act would require hospitals and other obstetrical facilities and professionals to inform their patients of the option of donating umbilical cord blood to umbilical cord blood banks. This act would also require hospitals and other obstetrical facilities to facilitate the donation of umbilical cord blood to umbilical cord blood banks.

Executive Director's Recommendation

X Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

H – 7967

BY: Segal, Ajello, Almeida, Slater, and Williams

ENTITLED: RELATING TO CRIMINAL PROCEDURE

Executive Director's Recommendation

✓ Support Not Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

This act would prohibit state and local law enforcement authorities from inquiring as to the immigration status of any person, whether witness or arrestee, unless the arrestee was arrested for a felony, and the arresting officer or agency has reasonable grounds to believe that the person's status is a violation of immigration law. The act would also prohibit local law enforcement from entering into any agreement to enforce federal immigration law, and would provide for civil penalties, including costs and attorneys' fees, for any violations of the provisions of this chapter.

H-7983

BY: Jackson, Lewiss and Scott

ENTITLED: Relating to Probate Practice and Procedure--Claims

Introduced February 26, 2008, referred to House Judiciary. This act would establish past and future child support obligations as a debt of the estate of a decedent due preferentially after the payment of taxes. It would further make it easier to collect child support obligations owed by parent from their estate.

Executive Director's Recommendation

☑ Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

H-7989

BY: Naughton, Slater and Dennigan

ENTITLED: Relating to Education

Introduced February 26, 2008, referred to House Finance. This act would modify into the general laws certain language regarding the instruction of special needs students. This language would closely follow the language contained in certain regulations promulgated by the board of regents.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

NASW-RI believes special need students should have access to safe and effective classrooms, continuation of speech pathology services, appropriate and responsive personnel and extended school year services. A review of studies looking at both regular education students and special needs students overwhelmingly supports the need to cap special non-inclusive classrooms to no more than 10 which has been the RI standard for many years. Changes recently enacted in special education regulations by the RI DOE despite hundreds of professional and parent testimonies against such changes demonstrates the need to remove the decision making from the DOE return much of the services outlined in the original regulations into statute.

H – 8017

BY: Brien, Singleton, Palumbo, Menard, and Mattiello

ENTITLED: TO APPROVE AND PUBLISH AND SUBMIT TO THE ELECTORS A PROPOSITION OF AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE (MARRIAGE)

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Not Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

Proposition to allow for residents of RI to vote on same sex marriage during next statewide general election.

H – 8075

BY: Fellela

ENTITLED: RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES – MEDICAL ASSISTANCE

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Not Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

This act would eliminate co-payments charged to eligible Medicaid beneficiaries for accessing certain medical benefits and prescription drug coverage. This bill's passage would have meaningful impact for those with extensive mental health and/or medical drug use, as co-payment costs for prescription medications added up even weekly can be prohibitive. NASW supports this measure, meant to alleviate a portion of the financial strain that our most vulnerable populations cannot bear. As stress is known to increase the presence or recurrence of the symptoms of illness, removing this financial stressor can have a positive impact on a large number of individuals' health.

☆☆☆ SENATE ☆☆☆

S-2004

BY: Ciccone, Miller, Badeau, Tassoni and Goodwin

ENTITLED: Relating to Financial Institutions—Community Obligations and Banking Offenses

Introduced January 2, 2008, referred to Senate Corporations. This act would limit the overdraft charge to \$5.00 for a check issued for insufficient funds.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

S – 2005

BY: Tassoni, Felag, McBurney, and Doyle

ENTITLED: An Act Relating to Sports, Racing and Athletics – The Rhode Island Gaming Control and Revenue Act

This act would require that casinos implement a procedure to screen patrons who are of age for gambling purposes but not of age to consume alcohol.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

S – 2009

BY: Senators Moura, Goodwin, and Maselli

ENTITLED: An Act Relating to State Affairs and Government. Introduced on January 02, 2008. Referred to Senate Constitutional & Regulatory Issues. This act would require the operation of video lottery games on a twenty-four hour basis at the Twin River and Newport Grand facilities.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

NASW is monitoring this bill, no analysis has been developed at this time.

S-2013

BY: Tassoni, Masselli, Doyle and McBurney

ENTITLED: Relating to Taxation Exemption for Veterans

Introduced January 2, 2008, referred to Senate Finance. This act would give cities and towns the option of entirely exempting the homestead real estate of a disabled veteran or his or her surviving spouse from taxation.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

S-2014

BY: Cote

ENTITLED: Relating to Taxation

Introduced January 2, 2008, referred to Senate Finance. This act would provide a tax credit of ten percent of the expenses, up to two hundred dollars to private businesses which participate in a "Qualified School-to-Career Program."

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

S – 2015

BY: Raptakis, Walaska, Sheehan, Breene, and Algieri

ENTITLED: An Act Relating to State Affairs and Government – Tax Refund for Contribution to Certain Nonprofit Groups

This act would provide for a refund deduction for contributions to the Meals on Wheels Inc. Fund.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion: NASW-RI supports monetary contributions as supplemental support to the Meals on Wheels Program.

S – 2021

BY: Senators Tassoni, McBurney, Doyle, and Felag

ENTITLED: **RELATING TO CRIMINAL OFFENSES**

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

This act would prohibit "cyberharrasing" and defines such as anyone who posts information on a website which "seriously alarms, annoys, or bothers the person, and which serves no legitimate purpose. This act violates the first amendment freedom of speech. Notify ACLU.

S – 2025

BY: Tassoni, Maselli, Goodwin, Doyle, and McBurney

ENTITLED: An Act Relating to Criminal Procedures – Domestic Violence Prevention Act

This act would require training for new law enforcement officers to include techniques to aid investigating officers to become aware of incidents or crimes of domestic violence and other abuse crimes and how to react and investigate them.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

NASW – RI supports the appropriation of funds to combat domestic violence in RI.

S– 2026

BY: Bates, Blais, Breene, Cote, and Walaska

ENTITLED: An Act Relating to Domestic Relations – Child Support Enforcement

Executive Director’s Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

This act would allow the Family Court to order child support if the child has a severe physical or mental impairment, beyond the child’s emancipation event. The onset of the disability must have occurred prior to the emancipation event. The court will consider the nature and extent of the child’s disability, the cost of extraordinary medical expenses, the child’s ability to earn income, the child’s financial resources, the parents’ financial resources, and the primary caregiver’s inability to sustain full-time employment due to hardships.

S-2053

BY: Lanzi, Badeau, Ciccone, Tassoni and Gallo

ENTITLED: Relating to Health and Safety

Introduced January 10, 2008, referred to Senate Health and Human Services. This act would require nursing home administrators to report abuse of residents to the state police department of the municipality where the abuse occurred.

Executive Director’s Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

NASW-RI supports legislation that protects the most vulnerable, which includes abused and victimized residents of long-term care facilities.

S – 2058

BY: Senators Raptakis, Cote, Lenihan, Maselli, Revens

ENTITLED: An Act Relating to Elections – Registration of Voters. Introduced on January 10, 2008. Referred to Senate Judiciary. This act would reduce the waiting period required for disaffiliation with a political party from 90 days to 29 days.

Executive Director’s Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

S - 2059

BY :Senators Raptakis, Daponte, Ciccone, Tassoni, and Maselli

ENTITLED: An Act Relating to Labor and Labor Relation – Minimum Wages. Introduced on January 10, 2008. Referred to Senate Labor. This act would adjust the minimum wage annually using the consumer price index.

Executive Director’s Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

Cost of living adjustments (COLAs) or other such price indexing schemes will only result in a permanent status of low wage workers. The minimum wage is not a living wage” and currently falls short between \$7 - \$8 per hour. Rhode Island Page 51 of 84 has proven its support to the low wage earner by making adjustments every 2 - 3 years that supersede what a COLA would have done and what the federal government has done. The free market place absolutely guarantees that a percentage of workers will fall below the poverty line or exist in the low income working poor category. Until this part of the economic engine is repaired, RI will remain a state of the “Haves and Have nots”. All work is of value to the continuously as a whole and all individuals, regardless of class status, deserve to live at a healthy level financially and socially. Forces way beyond the control of any one low income individual absolutely controls his/her chance of a more moderate income. If that individual succeeds there will be another to take his/her place. A large adjustment to the minimum wage reflective of the “living wage” and then a COLA mechanism added would permanently “tune up” the free market place engine in regards to wages and living opportunities.

S-2074

BY: Felag, Ciccone, Tassoni, Doyle and Masselli

ENTITLED: Relating to Military Affairs and Defense

Introduced January 15, 2008, referred to Senate Finance. This act would provide for \$500 to \$1,000 bonuses to members of the Armed Services who have been released or discharged under honorable conditions after serving in Operation Enduring Freedom, Iraqi Freedom or Noble Eagle

Executive Director’s Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose X Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

NASW-RI is monitoring, no analysis has been developed at this time regarding the impact.

S – 2076

BY: Maselli, Flag, P Fogarty, Walaska, and Blais

ENTITLED: An Act Relating to State Affairs and Government – The Rhode Island Taxpayer and Citizen Protection Act of 2008

This act would create the "Rhode Island Taxpayer and Citizen Protection Act of 2008", which would enact various laws designed to require state agencies to cooperate with federal immigration authorities in enforcing federal immigration laws and would amend various existing state statutes relative to eligibility for drivers licenses.

Executive Director’s Recommendation

Support Conditional Support X Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion: This act would create a relationship with the federal immigration authorities to enforce federal immigration laws, including eligibility for drivers licenses. This law has the power to be intrusive upon civil liberties, as well as instilling potentially racist and xenophobic tactics.

S – 2081

BY: Senators Perry, Connors, Doyle, Sosnowski, C Levesque

ENTITLED: **RELATING TO ELECTIONS- REGISTRATION OF VOTERS**

Executive Director’s Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

This legislation would allow those who are 16 and 17 to preregister to vote in the state of Rhode Island and upon the age of 18 be automatically eligible to vote. This act promotes participation in our democracy. NASW believes that this is essential to maintaining a healthy, sustainable democracy well into the future and is therefore whole handily supportive of efforts to increase voter participation.

S – 2087

BY: Sosnowski, Perry, Raptakis and Gibbs

ENTITLED: RELATING TO CRIMINAL OFFENSES - CHILDREN

Executive Director’s Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion: This act would make it illegal to sell tobacco products to persons under 21 years of age. NASW-RI fully recognizes the health-dangers of smoking and using tobacco products. However, a child becomes recognized by the state as an adult at age 18 and we believe that they should have the choice to buy tobacco products upon reaching that age.

S – 2089

BY: Senators Sosnowski, Perry, Walaska, Moura, and Gibbs. Introduced on January 15, 2008. Referred to Senate Judiciary. This act would create the “Rhode Island Protection From Secondhand Smoke For Children Act of 2008” which prohibits smoking in any vehicle in which a child is required to be restrained in a passenger safety seat.

ENTITLED: An Act Relating to Motor and Other Vehicles – Rhode Island Protection From Secondhand Smoke for Children Act of 2008

Executive Director’s Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion: This act would prohibit smoking in a vehicle in which a child is required to be restrained in a passenger safety seat. NASW-RI fully supports this law in principle, as we believe that children should be free of the dangers caused by second-hand smoke, **however could only support this legislation if it have strong language that would not allow pretext stops by law enforcement.**

S – 2091

BY: **RELATING TO LABOR AND LABOR RELATIONS**

ENTITLED: Representatives Cote, Sheehan, Lenihan, Maselli, and Tassoni

See House bill 7107

Executive Director’s Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

See House Bill 7107

This act would require all non-governmental employers within the state with (3) or more employees to apply to participate in the extended federal basic employment verification pilot program and to participate if accepted. The act would also impose a fine on an employer that does not participate in the program. NASW-RI is opposed to legislation that aims to discriminate against persons on the basis of citizenship status. We support the enactment of comprehensive immigration reform that provides a path for undocumented persons to become citizens of the United States. This legislation has states rely on a flawed system- one which includes about 17.8 million errors, of which 12.7 million refer to US citizens. This legislation will result in thousands of Rhode Islanders being denied employment because of an administrative error, a typo, a life change- marriage, divorce, name change, or naturalization. The best way Rhode Island has to deal with the broken immigration system is to enforce current law and to ensure that every employer is meeting the requirements of current RI Labor Law.

S-2104

BY: Badeau, Ruggerio and Ciccone

ENTITLED: Relating to Public Officers and Employees—Retirement System Contributions and Benefits

Introduced January 22, 2008, referred to Senate Finance. This act would permit members in the state retirement system who have retired from municipal employment to obtain post-retirement employment with the state without a suspension of retirement benefits.

Executive Director’s Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor X More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

S – 2105

BY: Raptakis, Breene, Blais, Maselli, Tassoni

ENTITLED: An Act Relating to Towns and Cities – State Aid – Rhode Island Development Impact Fees

This act would provide a housing bonus to school districts to offset increased education expenses resulting from the development of low or moderate income housing units. The amount of the bonus would be in the amount of \$1,250 for each such unit. This act would also allow cities and towns to assess an impact fee for the impact on education resulting from low and moderate income housing construction.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor X More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

S – 2107

BY: Moura and DaPonte

ENTITLED: RELATING TO EDUCATION

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

NASW - RI is not opposed to this legislation in principle if expanded to higher cost sharing for all education services and not singling out special education students. However NASW - RI is opposed at this time to even an addendum version for this bill. Please read on.

Language in this bill referring to extraordinary services reimbursement, would mean a local school district would be refunded any costs incurred over \$50,000 per student which only applies to special education students. Such reimbursements can help lessen the strain on property taxes. Property tax funding for local school costs is based on an antiquated system of funding schools when communication was limited between schools and the capitol and government was much more localized. It also was created before communities and people became aware of the significant barriers that disabilities cause related to increasingly more complex and competitive highly skilled job market. Individuals with severe disabilities certainly can work in highly skilled jobs and learn effectively with supports and accommodations. No society is healthy or mature without full integration opportunities for numerous groups, including people with disabilities. The competing problem is that RI has an extremely large budget deficit and town residents are overburdened with property taxes.

NASW - RI would not be in favor of taking funds out of the general budget at this time because of the harm to other needed programs. The two main issues here is an antiquated funding mechanism for public education and the cost shifting mechanism that the federal government has implemented for the past seven years. It is time that the governor of our state join others in insisting that the federal government changes priorities to education and social programs relieving funds at the state level to help temporarily fix the issue that this bill is trying to address. Simultaneous, it is time to address the structural deficit by looking at other untapped or under tapped revenue streams that can be found in a number of tax expenditures, tax loop holes & the overall distribution of income tax among various tax categories.

As the State becomes more financially stable and more quality jobs are developed, the whole school funding system should be overhauled with general treasury funds playing a larger part. In the past several general assemblies, there have been numerous bills attempting to set cap levels from \$5000 to \$30,000 for special education services. If any of this legislation were to actually pass, it would be entirely possible for special education students to need services and then not get them because the local community, by statute, would be no longer responsible to provide funds above the cap level and the state would have not enough money to fund the programs either. Although this legislation is not the same as the previous ones, given the budget deficit we would need to oppose it on other grounds and we fear it is so similar to previous attempts that it may simply be an incremental step.

We would also oppose this bill because it singles out special needs students making them a “target” for some town residents when friction develops because promises or presumed promises were broken. We would definitely support greater fiscal responsibility by state government for all public education services when the budget allows.

S – 2109

BY: Senators Miller, Tassoni, Ruggerio, Perry, and Goodwin

ENTITLED: An Act Relating to State Affairs and Government. Introduced on January 22, 2008. Referred to Senate Housing & Municipal Government. This act would provide procedures for obtaining a certificate of critical concern and for an expedited permitting process for affordable housing.

Executive Director’s Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

S – 2110

BY: Representatives Richard, Goodwin, Jabour, Tassoni and Metts

ENTITLED: **RELATING TO PROPERTY- MORTGAGE FORCLOSURE AND SALE**

Executive Director’s Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

This act would require a mortgage company to notify tenants of the date, time, and place of a foreclosure sale along with contact information for Rhode Island legal Services and HUD approved counseling agencies in Rhode Island. It would also require that any successor in interest to a foreclosure mortgage continue to provide essential services such as heat, running water, hot water, electric or gas if the foreclosed mortgagor had provided said services prior to foreclosure. This act would also require a successor in interest to a foreclosed mortgagor to give tenants written notice to quit at least 60 days in advance. NASW-RI supports increased tenant rights in regards to those who have been foreclosed upon. With the mortgage crisis sweeping the country NASW-RI believes that consumers should be respected and provided with as much information about an impending foreclosure of their home that is possible- this legislation does just that. Further, NASW-RI supports the continuation of agreed upon included services (running water, heat, etc) during the period preceding the tenants departure.

S-2113

BY: Ciccone, Badaeu, Felag, Ruggerio and Daponte

ENTITLED: Relating to State Affairs and Government—Restricting Radio Frequency Identification Devices

Introduced January 22, 2008, referred to Senate Judiciary. This act would restrict the use of radio frequency identification devices for the purpose of tracking the movement or identity of an employee, student, or client as a condition of obtaining a benefit or services from such agency.

Executive Director’s Recommendation

X Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion: This act would restrict the use of radio frequency identification devices for the purpose of tracking the movement of peoples. NASW-RI fully supports this law and believes that surveillance of a worker, student or client is a violation of their civil liberties.

S-2114

BY: Cote

ENTITLED: Relating to Courts and Civil Procedure

Introduced January 22, 2008, referred to Senate Judiciary. This act would reduce the interest percentage to be added in civil actions from twelve percent to six percent.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor X More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

S – 2131

BY: Senators Moura and DePonte

ENTITLED: **RELATING TO EDUCATION- RESIDENCE OF CHILDREN**

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

This act would give a presumption of validity to a school district in hearings before the department of elementary and secondary education when a school district determines that a child is no longer a resident of that district for the purpose of public education.

S-2133

BY: Gibbs, Cote, Jabour, Bates and Breene

ENTITLED: Relating to Education—School Committees and Superintendents

Introduced January 30, 2008, referred to Senate Finance. This act would allow city and town councils to seek waivers of state law or regulation related to education, including, but not limited to, regulations governing the education of children with disabilities, in order to reduce school budget increases to specified levels.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support X Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion: NASW-RI strongly supports school funding for people with disabilities. This law could potentially take funds away from children with disabilities in order to reduce school budget increases. NASW-RI believes that different measures should be taken to reduce budget increases without singling out children with disabilities.

S-2134

BY: Pichardo, Gallo, Lanzi, Miller and Alves

ENTITLED: Relating to Health Safety—Breast Cancer Act

Introduced January 30, 2008, referred to Senate Finance. This act would provide additional funding for breast cancer screening.

Executive Director's Recommendation

X Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

This is the companion bill of H-7383. Breast cancer is one of the most prevalent cancers and is left undetected has a high death rate. On the other hand, early detection allow for a much greater chance of survival and much less intrusive treatment procedures.

S – 2136

BY: Felag, Walaska and Bates

ENTITLED: Relating to Public Officers and Employees—Insurance Benefits. This act would reduce school district and municipal health insurance costs by requiring school districts and municipalities to participate in the state health insurance plan through one of two options where such participation is less expensive to the jurisdiction.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose X Monitor X More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion: This act would require schools to be involved in the state health insurance plan in order to reduce school district and municipal health insurance costs. As advocates of universal health care, NASW-RI believes that this bill needs to be monitored and have more analysis as to how this law would be executed.

S-2143

BY: Connors, Perry C Levesque and McCaffrey

ENTITLED: Relating to State Affairs and Government—The Civil Rights Act of 1990

Introduced January 30, 2008, referred to Senate Judiciary. This act would set a three year statute of limitations on any alleged violation of this chapter.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor X More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

S-2144

Sponsored By: Blais, Alves, McCaffrey, McBurney, Goodwin

Entitled: An Act Relating to Public Finance-Prohibiting the Use of Public Funds for Abortions. This act would prohibit the use of public facilities, public employees and public funds for the purpose of performing, assisting or encouraging abortion.

Executive Director's Recommendation:

Support Not Support Oppose Monitor More

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion: This act would prohibit the use of public funds when concerning performing, assisting or encouraging abortion. NASW-RI supports a woman's right to choose and opposes this proposed legislature. This act could be especially harmful for those women who do not have health insurance or a primary care doctor.

S – 2165

BY:Perry, Goodwin, Gallo, Metts and Miller

ENTITLED: Relating to Property—Residential Landlord and Tenant Act. This act would require a landlord to pay a departing tenant the value of fuel oil left in the tank upon the tenant vacating the premises.

Executive Director's Recommendation

X Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

Fair is fair!

S – 2167

BY: Perry, C Levesque, Tassoni, Gibbs and Sosnowski

ENTITLED: RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT – SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER PRIVACY ACT

Executive Director's Recommendation

✓ Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

Social Security numbers should be one of the least used numbers possible due to potential identity theft. SSNs were never meant to be used as identification and US residents should have the highest level of protection.

S – 2169

BY: Senator Joshua Miller

ENTITLED: Relating to Health and Safety – Prohibiting Persons from Entering and Remaining on a Public Ways or Sidewalk Within a 100 Foot Radius of a Reproductive Health Care Facility. Introduced on January 31, 2008. Referred to Senate Judiciary.

Executive Director’s Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

This act would prohibit persons from remaining within a 100-foot health care facility. NASW-RI strongly supports a woman’s right to choice and fully supports this bill. In 2000, The United States Supreme Court ruled in favor of a similar law in the court case Hill v. Colorado. NASW-RI respects this court opinion and fully backs this piece of legislation.

S-2172

Sponsored By: Tassoni, Perry, Levesque C, Bates

Entitled: An Act Relating to Health and Safety-Spousal Notice for Abortion. This act would repeal the requirement that physicians performing abortions notify the husband of the patient before the abortion is performed.

Executive Director’s Recommendation:

Support Not Support Oppose Monitor More

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion: This act would repeal the current requirement that physicians performing abortions notify the husband before the procedure is performed. NASW-RI fully supports a woman’s right to choose and supports the repeal of spousal notification. According to the US Department of Justice, 95% of all domestic violence cases are women. NASW-RI believes that spousal notification could possibly result in domestic violence or abuse, something that should be avoided at all costs.

S – 2185

BY: Gallo, P Fogarty and Connors

ENTITLED: Relating to Motor and Other Vehicles—Motor Fuel Tax. This act would exempt ethanol from the motor fuel tax.

Executive Director’s Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

There are several reasons for the opposition of this bill. 1. Ethanol is produced primarily from corn. Corn is one of the most destructive crops to grow in regard to soil health and conservation. Corn requires a great amount of nitrogen. Traditional farming techniques require a rotation between corn, alfalfa, and soy beans which replenishes the soil every three years. Farmland in the mid-west is now used exclusively to grow corn in many areas because the increased prices, either depleting the soil or forcing increased use of non-organic nitrogen replenishing. A side effect is that it is becoming much less profitable to grow feed and seed corn. Many farm coops are building corn to ethanol production plants which will be near impossible to dislodge from local rural economies and will create a new large political lobby. America will become more dependant energy wise and politically on this soil depleting industry. 2. During a huge budget deficit, its not wise to lower taxes losing 10% of tax revenue from gasoline sales. As soon as the deficit is under control, gasoline taxes should be lowered due to its regressive tax nature. 3. A more eco friendly solution is to require higher gas mileage cars f ruse in RI and to encourage the RI companies to develop alternative fuel technology, encourage new company development in this area and to provide incentives to use alternative car fuel n RI such as electricity and even better fuel cells.

S-2193

BY: Blais and Raptakis

ENTITLED: Relating to Towns and Cities—Low and Moderate Income Housing

Introduced January 31, 2008, referred to Senate Housing & Municipal Government. This act would require that year-round mobile homes be included in year-round housing units and rented year-round mobile homes be included in year-round rental housing units for purposes of determining the need for low and moderate income housing units.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

Although NASW-RI supports safe and appropriate housing to low and moderate income families, NASW-RI believes that this legislation would open the door for segregating low and moderate income housing units into mobile home communities and not into permanent housing neighborhoods.

S-2194

BY: Metts and Pichardo

ENTITLED: Relating to Property—Rhode Island Fair Housing Practices Act

Introduced January 31, 2008, referred to Senate Judiciary. This act would prohibit discrimination in housing against those persons who are recipients of government assistance.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

NASW-RI supports anti-discriminatory legislation that provides equal and fair access to housing to those who are eligible.

S-2203

BY: Blais

ENTITLED: Relating to Business and Professions—Medical Malpractice

Introduced January 31, 2008, referred to Senate Judiciary. This act would require the department of health to provide an analysis of medical malpractice insurance rates and to recommend improvements to the legislature.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

NASW-RI is monitoring, no analysis has been developed at this time regarding the impact.

S – 2219

BY: Perry, Miller, Pichardo, Moura, and Sosnowski

ENTITLED: Relating to state affairs and government – Rhode Island housing resources act of 1998

This act would give the Rhode Island Housing Resources Commission the power to administer the supportive services program which aids in the prevention of homelessness, and would appropriate \$500,000 in fiscal year 2009 to carry out this provision of this act.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

A myriad of support services are required to assist homeless individuals and families to successfully obtain and maintain housing.

S – 2271

BY: Senators Levesque and Perry

ENTITLED: **RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES- FIP**

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

This act would allow a parent to receive childcare assistance if the parent works at paid employment or attends an education or training program as long as the attend at least 25 hours a week. It would also restore stricken language providing child care for children below the age of sixteen. NASW- RI supports providing child care assistance for parents receiving aid from the Family Independence Act. We also support increasing the cut off level from 180 percent of the poverty line to eventually 350 percent. However, more analysis is needed to determine if limiting assistance only to those employed 25 hours a week or more is appropriate and is a sufficient incremental step to an ultimate goal of 350% of the federal poverty level.

S – 2189

BY: Senators Perry, Sonsowski, Miller, C. Levesque, and Goodwin

ENTITLED: Relating to Insurance – Coverage for Mental Illness and Substance Abuse. Introduced on January 31, 2008. Referred to Senate Health & Human Services.

This act would specify that reimbursement for mental illness coverage shall be comparable to the amount paid for similar medical services.

Executive Director’s Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

Having a mental health disorder can be as serious as having a heart attack or any other debilitating, life-threatening physical health disorder, and can in fact contribute to physical ailments. Yet of the 44 million Americans who suffer from a mental health disorder, only a third receive treatment. According to a 2004 survey by the American Psychological Association, Americans say that lack of insurance (87%) and cost (81%) are the leading factors for not seeking mental health services. The same survey shows that 85% of Americans say that health insurance should cover mental health services. Federal Laws have been implemented and are due to expand. State legislatures also recognize the importance of mental health parity. Since 1991, thirty-eight states have enacted some form of parity legislation, and Rhode Island adopted broad based parity laws. This legislation aims to improve reimbursement rates, which helps retain qualified treatment providers. According to the RI Mental Health Parity Law passed in 1988, all insurance companies are suppose to reimburse behavioral health providers at a rate equal to physical health rates. The largest insurance carrier currently provide rates at are heigher, however the second largest lagged behind for years until recent changes to the Federal Medicare rate structure. This reimbursement is not at eh level of rate expectations.

S – 2191

BY: Senators Walaska, McCaffrey, Bates, Blais, Cote

ENTITLED: **RELATING TO INSURANCE- MANDATED BENEFITS**

Executive Director’s Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

This act would require a mandated benefit review by the health insurance commissioner or any mandated benefit introduced after January 1, 2008, contingent on the review being paid for by the state health care providers.

S-2204

BY: Perry, Sosnowski, Miller, C Levesque and Pichardo

ENTITLED: Relating to Domestic Relations—Persons Eligible to Marry

Introduced January 31, 2008, referred to Senate Judiciary. This act would broaden the definition of persons eligible to marry to include persons of the same gender. This act would also provide that members of the clergy would not be required to officiate at any particular marriage.

Executive Director’s Recommendation

X Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

S – 2205

BY: Blais, Maseli, Breene and Bates

ENTITLED: Relating to State Affairs and Government—Rhode Island Policy and Its Diverse Cultures. This act would establish English as the primary language in the state of Rhode Island

Executive Director’s Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

This act would establish English as the primary language in the state of Rhode Island. NASW-RI views this legislation as not recognizing the learning difficulties of new groups to RI and definitely does not recognize diversity of Rhode Island residents. Although the bill’s manifest goal is to help facilitate the learning of the English language for non-English speaking residents, an unintended outcome of this type of legislation has been used to promote discrimination in other states. This legislation’s companion bill is H-7024.

S-2223

BY: Perry, Miller, C Levesque, Paiva-Weed and Gibbs

ENTITLED: Relating to Human Services—Medical Assistance—Long-term Care Service and Finance Reform

Introduced February 6, 2008, referred to Senate Health & Human Services. This act would require the department of human services to implement a model system for integrated long-term care that expands the capacity of the long-term care system as a whole to support consumer choice and independence.

Executive Director’s Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

Companion bill to H-7464.

S – 2225

BY: Miller, Pichardo, C Levesque, Perry, and Issa

ENTITLED: An Act Relating to Insurance – Health Insurance Coverage for Dependents

Executive Director’s Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

This act would provide that health care coverage terminating for a dependent at a specific age would give the uninsured the opportunity to continue coverage as long as he or she is under the age of thirty and has no dependents of his or her own provided an additional premium may be charged. NASW-RI believes that comprehensive health care reform must be addressed in the country on a whole. However, we realize that the 20-30 age group is the mostly highly uninsured/underinsured demographic group and this legislation works to address this problem by giving the option to continue coverage under a parents plan has the potential to effectively mitigate part of the problem. This legislation will be monitored closely.

S - 2228

BY Doyle, Tassoni, McBurney, Connors, Maselli

ENTITLED: Relating to courts and civil procedure -- Causes of action

This act would allow that no person who gratuitously renders emergency assistance in the nature of cardiopulmonary resuscitation or automated external defibrillation to a person/liable for civil damages for any personal injuries which result from acts. This act would take effect upon passage.

Executive Director’s Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

S-2234

BY: Metts, Pichardo, C Levesque, Issa, Goodwin

ENTITLED: Relating to Criminal Procedure—Warrants for Arrest

Introduced February 6, 2008, referred to Senate Judiciary. This act would amend the procedures for collection of fines, fees, costs, assessments and restitution in criminal cases: it would also set a priority of payments and would set forth a procedure for standardizing a determination of a defendant's ability to pay.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

S – 2236

BY: Doyle, Tassoni, McBurney, and Conners

ENTITLED: An Act Relating to Criminal Offenses – Assaults

This act would make an assault on a youth sports official or youth sports participant a felony punishable by up to 3 years in prison, a \$1500 fine or both, and harassment of a youth sports official or youth sport participant a misdemeanor punishable by up to 30 days in jail and a \$500 fine or both.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

In general, NASW - RI does not support mandatory sentencing and attachment of felony status to a ill defined crime wiht many variations. Existing laws are adequate in this specific area.

S – 2237

BY: Pichardo and Metts

ENTITLED: RELATING TO CRIMINAL PROCEDURE – IMMIGRANT ASSISTANCE IN CRIME FIGHTING

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

NASW - RI strongly supports this act. A resident of RI whether legal or illegal trying to “do the right thing” should be protected from ill consequences for assisting law enforcement.

S – 2238

BY:

ENTITLED: Relating to criminal procedure – expungement of criminal records

This act would allow judges the discretion to expunge the felony record of an individual otherwise eligible after five (5) years from the completion of their sentence, provided one of more extraordinary circumstances exist as defined and the judge makes a finding on the record. The act would also give the attorney general's office a right of appeal of that expungement.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

2240

Sponsored By: Gibbs, Levesque C, Perry, Sosnowski

Entitled: An Act Relating to State Affairs and Government-Healthcare for Children and Pregnant Women. This act would provide funding, under the RStart Program, for abortions necessary to preserve the life of the mother, or in the case of pregnancies resulting from rape or incest.

Executive Director’s Recommendation:

Support Not Support Oppose Monitor More

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion: This bill would provide funding under RStart for abortions necessary to save the life of the mother or in pregnancies resulting from rape or incest. NASW-RI fully supports a woman’s right to control their own reproductive decisions.

S - 2262

BY Gallo

ENTITLED: Relating to commercial law - General regulatory provisions - Motor vehicles - deceptive trade practices

This act provides that a contract to finance the sale of a motor vehicle must display the term and rate of interest and the borrower's initials must appear adjacent to such on the agreement. If an agreement does not comply it shall be voidable, however the borrower shall be responsible for damage or excessive wear and tear and miles to the vehicle. This act would take effect upon passage.

Executive Director’s Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

Deceptive lending practices affect the poor and individuals with the fewest optics the most.

S – 2268

BY: Walaska, Bates, and Cote

ENTITLED: Relating to education – health and safety of pupils

This act would restrict the mandatory providing of school bus monitors to grades kindergarten through five (5), and would provide for an explicit elimination for the provision of school bus monitors for secondary and middle school pupils.

Executive Director’s Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

Common sense dictates that child injuries have decreased since bus monitors have been implemented. A study of the incidents of safety should be undertaken prior to any changes in the law. This study should be performed by age groups including special attention or children with disabilities.

S – 2270

BY: C. Levesque

ENTITLED: Relating to taxation

This act would raise the tax credit to taxpayers providing adult or child day care services to its employees or provides real property for child day care services from thirty percent (30%) to seventy-five percent (75%) of the total amount expended.

Executive Director’s Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

S – 2271

BY: C. Levesque, and Perry

ENTITLED: An act relating to human services – Family independence act

This act would allow a parent to receive childcare assistance if the parent works at paid employment or attends an education or training program provided that the parent is employed for at least twenty-five (25) hours per week. It would also restore stricken language providing childcare for children below the age of sixteen. This act would take effect upon passage.

Executive Director’s Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

Childcare is an accentual support . No parent can work without it unless a family member of friend provides such a service.

S – 2272

BY: Walaska, Bates, McCaffrey, and Connors

ENTITLED: An act relating to taxation – Local real property assessment

This act would reduce the frequency of updated real estate revaluation from one every three (3) years to once every five (5) years for the post transition periods. This act would take effect upon passage.

Executive Director’s Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

S-2273

BY: Gallo, Lanzi and Miller

ENTITLED: Relating to Towns and Cities

Introduced February 7, 2008, referred to Senate Finance. This act would require the state to make additional funds available to the city of Cranston when there is an increase in the population at the adult correctional institution.

Executive Director’s Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

NASW-RI is monitoring, no analysis has been developed at this time regarding the impact.

S – 2279

BY: Blais

ENTITLED: Relating to insurance

This act would create an independent committee to review the cost-effectiveness, medical efficacy and social need for mandated health insurance benefits.

Executive Director’s Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

Existing mandats have received an adequate vetting though both the Senate and the House. NASW - RI believes all are necessary such as , mental health parity, breast cancer screening and long term Lymes decease treatment. We would have great concern for the composition of such a committee under the current high level government leadership believe in solving healthcare issues through the free market process.

S – 2280

BY: C. Levesque, Bates, and Miller

ENTITLED: An act relating to health and safety

This act would create the “Patient Safety and Medical Error Reduction Act” and would require each hospital in the state to participate in a comprehensive program to improve patient safety and reduce medical errors in the respective hospitals. This act shall take effect upon passage.

Executive Director’s Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

NASW - RI is in support of full investigation, reporting and disclosure of hospital infection risks within reasonable ability to preformed such at task without gravely affecting direct treatment.

S – 2282

BY: Perry, Goodwin, C. Levesque, Miller, and Gallo

ENTITLED: An act relating to human services – Medical assistance –Long-term care service and finance reform

This act would provide that those in need of long-term care and support services receive them in the least restrictive setting appropriate to their needs to avoid unnecessary institutionalization of persons during the full eligibility determination process for Medicaid community-based care. This requirement would be met by the department of human services which would direct and authorize allocation of existing Medicaid resources. This act would take effect upon passage.

Executive Director’s Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

Although some least restrictive services are not always less money, they certainly do not cost more and many are provided at great cost savigs. There is absolutely no way to put a price tag on the immense improvement in quality of life that can be achieved with community based living and service provision.

S-2283

BY: Perry, Moura, Sosnowski, Gallo and Pichardo

ENTITLED: Relating to Health and Safety—Breastfeeding—Promotes the Interests of Maternal and Child Health

Introduced February 7, 2008, referred to Senate Health and Human Services. This act would allow a woman to feed her child by bottle or breast in any place open to the public and would allow her a private cause of action for denial of this right.

Executive Director’s Recommendation

X Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

“There ain’t nothing more natural than this. Enough said!” (R. Harris)

S – 2285

BY: Perry, Miller, Pichardo, Sosnowski, and C Levesque

ENTITLED: An Act Relating to Insurance

This act would provide insurance coverage for treatment of infertility for unmarried, as well as married, persons

Executive Director’s Recommendation

X Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

This act would provide insurance coverage for treatment of infertility for unmarried, as well as married persons. This legislation works to restore equality of treatment regardless of marital status, something that NASW-RI fully supports. Many individuals are currently unable to marry under Rhode Island law and therefore are discriminated against because of the inability to do so, in regard to insurance care.

S– 2286

BY: Sheehan, Perry, Sosnowski, Paiva-Weed, and Walaska

ENTITLED: An Act Relating to Insurance – Health Insurance Market Expansion

Executive Director’s Recommendation

Support Conditional Support **Oppose** Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

NASW - RI strongly opposes this measure. Please see Associated Healthcare Plan testimony at www.rinasw.info.

S – 2290

BY: C. Levesque, and Miller

ENTITLED: An act relating to cities and towns – Zoning ordinances

This act would authorize an accessory family dwelling unit in a single-family residence as a reasonable accommodation for family members with disabilities. This act would take effect upon passage.

Executive Director’s Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

S – 2305

BY: Perry, Miller, Sosnowski, Goodwin, and P Fogarty

ENTITLED: An Act Relating to Business and Professions – Confidentiality of Health Care Communications and Information Act

Executive Director’s Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

This legislation would allow for the release or transfer of confidential health care information of a parent or guardian of a child who is the suspected victim of physical, psychological, or sexual abuse/neglect.

S – 2310

BY: Michael J. McCaffrey

ENTITLED: Relating to mental health, retardation, and hospitals – incompetency to stand trial and persons adjudged not guilty by reasons of insanity This act would amend provisions of the general laws relative to the filing of a petition setting forth that an incarcerated person is mentally ill and requires special care or treatment.

Executive Director’s Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

NASW - RI strongly supports this legislation. It is estimated by between 15 - 25% of inmates have a serious mental illness. It is this author’s professional estimate that over 40% of RI’s prison population suffer from severe and persistent mental illness and/or lesser but extremely debilitating MH issues. There should be no excuse not to provide proper and recommend treatment regardless of an individual living in an institution such as prison or in the community.

S – 2326

BY: Levesque

ENTITLED: An Act Relating to Criminals – Corrections Institutions – Parole

This act would require the parole board to consider an inmate’s likelihood of recidivism as determined by a risk assessment when deciding whether an inmate should be paroled.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

Predicting human community behavior regardless of past behavior in the community is a very difficult assessment and wrought with potential inaccuracies. This author has worked with many ex-offenders of various ages and criminal backgrounds. Success or failure depends heavily on innate and acquired skills, types of community supports (professional and social), rewarding employment, safe housing and other variables. Although the system is not perfect the current parole system is best able to make these decisions.

S – 2330

BY: Leo R. Blais

ENTITLED: Relating to state affairs and government

This act would provide that regulations promulgated through the Administrative Procedures Act are not effective until they are made available electronically to the public.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

NASW - RI is in strong support of this legislation. Along with other safe guards for public disclosure of rules, regulations and laws, provision through electronic means allows for much greater access.

S-2334

BY: C Levesque

ENTITLED: Relating to Criminal Procedure—Sentence and Execution

Introduced February 7, 2008, referred to Senate Judiciary. This act would change the sentencing laws regarding sentencing violators of probation and suspended sentences, limiting the amount of time a defendant may be sentenced to jail on a violation of their sentence, to the time remaining on their original sentence or less.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

S – 2335

BY: Levesque, Miller and Connors

ENTITLED: An Act Relating to Criminal Procedure – Restriction on Political Surveillance

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

This act would require that state and municipal law enforcement agencies may not collect or maintain information about political, religious, social view associations or activities of anyone unless there are reasonable grounds to suspect that the subject of the information is involved in criminal conduct and the information directly relates to the investigation of the criminal activity.

S – 2340

BY: Moura, Perry, C. Levesque, Miller, and Pichardo

ENTITLED: Relating to human services – Public assistance act – Medical assistance and abortions

This act would require general public assistance and medical assistance benefits to be provided to eligible beneficiaries, including victims of rape or incest, for the performance of abortions determined exclusively by the pregnant woman and a physician of her choice to be necessary to ameliorate a condition that is deleterious to the pregnant woman's physical and/or psychological health.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

This bill would provide funding under R1start for abortions necessary to save the life of the mother or in pregnancies resulting from rape or incest. NASW-RI fully supports a woman's right to choose and believes that women should be able to go through with an abortion if they choose, as well as if it is necessary to preserve their life.

S – 2341

BY: Senators Moura, Perry, Levesque, Millar, Pichardo

ENTITLED: **RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY- REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH CARE**

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

This act would prevent the state from interfering with a woman's decision regarding pregnancy, including her decision to terminate a pregnancy prior to fetal viability or at any time if such a termination is necessary to protect the life or health of the woman. NASW-RI strictly supports a woman's right to choose what to do with her body. This act is in clear accordance with the Roe V. Wade decision and NASW-RI fully supports this.

S – 2342

BY: Ciccone, Sosnowski, Tassoni, Jabour, and C. Levesque

ENTITLED: Relating to state affairs and government – Department of state government

This act would require the governor to appoint another person to a directorship within ten (10) days, if he or she withdraws the reappointment of a sitting director. His or her failure to do so would leave the office vacant.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

S-2343

BY: Tassoni, McCaffrey and McBurney

ENTITLED: Relating to State Government Departments--Directors

Introduced February 7, 2008, referred to Senate Judiciary. This act would require that all governor appointees to department directors, who are disapproved by a vote of the senate, shall relinquish their positions, not later than thirty days after the vote. In addition it would require all governor department director appointees, who the senate fails to vote upon within sixty days of their appointee to immediately relinquish their directorship.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose X Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

NASW-RI is monitoring, no analysis has been developed at this time.

S – 2345

BY: Senators C Levesque, Sosnowski, and Perry

ENTITLED: RELATING TO COURTS AND CIVIL PROCEDURE- PROCEDURE GENERALLY- WITNESS

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

This act would include domestic partners under various provisions of relative to courts, civil procedure, and various requirements related thereto. NASW- RI supports legislation that works to reduce discrimination in civil procedures for non married committed partners. Because many Rhode Islanders cannot get married under current Rhode Island law.

S-2353

BY: C Leverque

ENTITLED: Relating to Insurance

Introduced February 7, 2008, referred to Senate Finance. This act would amend various statues in order to provide affordable health care in Rhode Island. Among other changes this act would limit proposals government officials may consider to those insurance carriers that participate in the Affordable Health Plan Reinsurance Program and it would establish an Affordable Health Plan Reinsurance Account.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

Reinsurance is an important tool in developing Universal HealthCare.

S – 2361

BY: Senator Connors

ENTITLED: **RELATING TO LABOR AND LABOR RELATIONS- WORKERS COMPENSATION BENEFITS**

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

This act would require that before an injured worker, receiving weekly total workers compensation benefits, can receive an annual increase to a new dependency benefits allowance, the worker must be totally disabled for at least 52 consecutive weeks. More analysis is needed to determine if such a rigid standard is necessary to determine a benefits increase.

S– 2370

BY: Bates

ENTITLED: Relating to business and professions – real estate brokers and salespersons

This act would authorize the department of businesses regulation to deny licensure or suspend the license of any real estate license applicant who has been convicted of, pled guilty to, or pled nolo contendere to any felony.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

S – 2372

BY: Blais

ENTITLED: Relating to criminal offenses – weapons

This act would permit chief inspector, inspectors and correctional investigators to carry concealed weapons and be exempt from licensing.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

S-2373

BY: Gibbs

ENTITLED: Relating to Domestic Relations—Child Support Enforcement

Introduced February 12, 2008, referred to Senate Judiciary. This act would keep a child support order in full force and effect by wage withholding after the youngest child is emancipated to pay arrearage and automatically terminate said order when the arrearage is paid.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

NASW-RI is monitoring, no analysis has been developed at this time regarding the impact.

S – 2377

BY: Revens

ENTITLED: RELATING TO COURTS AND CIVIL PROCEDURE – FAMILY COURT

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Not Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

This act would allow for a divorce proceeding to occur in Rhode Island even if the marriage is not a recognized marriage in this state, but is in any other state or United States possession.

S – 2381

BY: Senators Perry, Pichardo, Lanzi, Miller, Levesque

ENTITLED: **RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY- TOXIC CHEMICALS IN CHILDREN'S PRODUCTS**

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

This act would

This act would require manufacturers of children's products that contain chemicals of high concern to disclose information to the department of health on their chemical use if the department designates the chemical as a

priority chemical based on potential exposure of a child or fetus to that chemical. The act would further authorize the department to require replacement of a priority chemical in children's products with a safer alternative whenever it determines that a safer alternative is available for a specified use. The act would exempt use of priority chemicals for industrial or manufacturing purposes, in motor vehicles and components, as fuels or that are generated as combustion byproducts.

NASW-RI is fully is supportive of efforts to protect the health and well-being of Rhode Island's infants and children.

S – 2382

BY: Gallo, P Fogarty, and C Levesque

ENTITLED: Relating to health care quality – monitoring the occurrences of hospital acquired infections in health care facilities

This act would add hospital-acquired infections to the list of those matters requiring reporting by hospitals.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

S-2383

BY: Perry, Sheelan, Pichardo, Miller and Gibbs

ENTITLED: Relating to Human Services—Abused and Neglected Children

Introduced February 12, 2008, referred to Senate Health and Human Services. This act would require the department of children, youth and families to provide the least restrictive setting to children in their care.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

Children who spend significant time in institutional setting adopt institutional behaviors which are not conducive to living in community settings.

S-2413

BY: Gibbs, C Levesque, Pichardo, Blais and Perry

ENTITLED: Relating to Education—Nursing Loan Repayment Program

Introduced February 12, 2008, referred to Senate Finance. This act would address loan forgiveness under the nursing loan repayment program and annually appropriate \$250,000 for matching funds.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

Loan forgiveness should be used for all professionals who work with the poor.

S-2414

BY: Alves, Algiere, Goodwin, Paiva-Weed and C Levesque

ENTITLED: Relating to Insurance—Health Insurance--Co-payments

Introduced February 12, 2008, referred to Senate Finance. This act would require health insurance carriers to reimburse hospitals for certain uncollected member copayments and deductible. It would also place conditions upon the variation of adjusted community rates applied by small employer carriers.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor X More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

S – 2420

BY: Maselli, Blais, Breene, and McCaffrey

ENTITLED: Relating to criminal offenses – Burglary and breaking and entering

This act would expand the list of vehicles that would subject a person to a felony sentence of ten (10) years in prison if the person broke into any of the types of vehicles with the intent to commit a larceny or other crime.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

NASW - RI Strongly opposes this legislation. Far too many sentences are either of the mandatory or felony identification type. Felony charges should be use only for the most serious crimes. A felony conviction results in many obstacles as the person is returning to the community.

S-2423

BY: Alves, Metts, Moura, C Levesque and Ciccone

ENTITLED: Relating to Delinquent and Dependent Children—Proceedings in Family Court

Introduced February 12, 2008, referred to Senate Judiciary. This act would transfer all cases in superior court and district court to the jurisdiction of family court where the defendant has not reached 18 years of age, and would transfer the records and disposition of any criminal cases completed in the district or superior courts to the jurisdiction of the family court and all such records of dispositions would be interpreted as family court dispositions and convictions for purposes of Rhode Island law. Any juvenile sentenced to a term of incarceration by the district or superior court would be brought before the family court, and after review the family court would transfer the juvenile from the adult correctional institutions to the custody of the department of children, youth and families.

Executive Director's Recommendation

X Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

S-2453

BY: Sosnowski, Revens, Breene, Blais and Miller

ENTITLED: Relating to Highways—Construction and Maintenance of State Roads

Introduced February 13, 2008, referred to Senate Environment and Agriculture. This act would require the director of the department of transportation to adopt proper application and spreader rates for all de-icing materials used in watersheds and require to whenever feasible the use of more environmentally suitable agents.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support X Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

Although de-icing materials are necessary to provide safe roadways and highways throughout the state, wash off of these winter materials could be detrimental not only to marine animals in watersheds but also water sources for Rhode Island residents. NASW-RI supports the implementation of eco-friendly alternatives to these materials as long as the materials provide effective de-icing agents for the roadways.

S – 2461

BY: Sosnowski, Blais, and Miller

ENTITLED: Relating to health and safety – the Rhode Island tobacco control program

This act would create the Rhode Island tobacco control program to be funded by revenue produced by the excise tax on cigarettes and other tobacco products.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

Smoking is the number one health hazard in our country.

S – 2472

BY: Miller, Paiva-Weed, Perry, Gibbs, and Felag

ENTITLED: Relating to state affairs and government

This act would create the Rhode Island Health Insurance Access Hub Act of 2008 to facilitate the purchase of affordable health care eligible persons and groups.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

S-2464

BY: Walaska and Bates

ENTITLED: Relating to Public Officers and Employees—Retirement System—Contribution and Benefits

Introduced February 13, 2008, referred to Senate Finance. This act would require that every beneficiary have a medical exam at least once every three years.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

Although medical examinations could benefit individuals in preventive of health issues that wouldn't normally see a health provider, how this is paid for and how this information is used is of great concern to NASW - RI. NASW-RI will monitor this legislation for possible costs and benefits to the beneficiary.

S – 2467

BY: Metts, Pichardo, Miller and Jabour

ENTITLED: RELATING TO TAXATION – PERSONAL INCOME TAX

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

S-2473

BY: Blais

ENTITLED: Relating to Food and Drugs—Trafficking in Dextromethorphan

Introduced February 13, 2008, referred to Senate Health and Human Services. This act would make possession of one gram or more of pure dextromethorphan by a person other than a medical facility, medical practice, pharmacist or licensed pharmacy illegal.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

Dextromethorphan is a common antitussive (cough suppressant) found in many over-the-counter cold and cough medicines. It has many other uses including pain relief. Although there has been a history of abuse of this drug, this legislation does not specify the

qualification and definition for one gram of “pure dextromethorphan.” Clarification of the language is needed for more analysis.

S-2474

BY: Bates, Walaska, Perry, C Levesque and Breene

ENTITLED: Relating to Health and Safety—Department of Health

Introduced February 13, 2008, referred to Senate Health and Human Services. This act would establish the Rhode Island patient safety and quality improvement act of 2008. The goals of this act would be to promote patient safety, reduce medical errors, and encourage better reporting of medical errors and related incidents.

Executive Director’s Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

S – 2478

BY: Jabour, and Ciccone

ENTITLED: Relating to health and safety – Public health and workplace safety act

This act would allow bars and restaurants to allow smoking upon their premise provided they obtain a special license which would be issued by the city or town for one thousand dollars (\$1,000) fee. This act would require employees of the establishment to sign an acknowledgment that smoking is hazardous to their health.

Executive Director’s Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion: Smoking is the most widespread addiction. According to the Smoke and Health Review, tobacco kills 500,000 Americans and costs \$400 billion dollars a year. Second-hand smoke also poses a serious threat to society. According to US Department of Health and Human Services, Nonsmokers exposed to secondhand smoke at work are at increased risk for adverse health effects. Levels of ETS (environmental tobacco smoke) in restaurants and bars were found to be 2 to 5 times higher than in residences with smokers and 2 to 6 times higher than in office workplaces. NASW-RI believes that allowing restaurants and bars to allow smoking on their premises are severely hurting both the health of the smokers themselves, as well as those around them. Senate Bill No.2478

S – 2481

BY: Senators C Levesque, Perry, Gibbs, and Gallo

ENTITLED: **RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY- HEALTH CARE QUALITY PROGRAM**

Executive Director’s Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

This act would create a health care quality and value database. NASW-RI supports efforts to make the health care system more accountable to consumers and the legislation does exactly that. By creating a database in which quality and costs can be compared

health care costs will decrease and the system will become more transparent. This will work to promote health care reform in the state of Rhode Island.

S-2484

BY: Pichardo, Jabour, Gallo, Perry and Paiva-Weed

ENTITLED: Relating to Health and Safety—Healthy Rhode Island Reform Act of 2008

Introduced February 13, 2008, referred to Senate Health and Human Services. This act would establish the healthy Rhode Island strategic plan and chronic care management program.

Executive Director's Recommendation

X Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

S – 2488

BY: Miller, C. Levesque, Sosnowski, Pichardo, and Perry

ENTITLED: Relating to criminal procedure – Criminal injuries compensation

This act would eliminate the requirement that a child or sibling of a victim who dies as a direct result of a violent crime be a minor to be eligible for an award for expenses related to psychiatric care and mental health counseling if proper documentation is provided that the psychiatric care and mental health counseling has been actually and reasonably incurred as a direct result of the death of the victim.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion:

For a child, losing a sibling as a direct result of a violent crime can lead to impairing mental and emotional conditions. In these cases, both psychiatric care and mental health counseling is imperative. NASW-RI believes that the child's mental and psychiatric care should be compensated to help them get through their traumatizing event and be able to move forward through their adulthood.

S – 2490

BY: Stephen D. Alves

ENTITLED: Relating to state affairs and government – State police

This act would provide for the implementation of a program among law enforcement agencies, broadcast media, and other appropriate entities to alert the state police and the public in the event of the disappearance of a senior citizen with an impaired mental condition.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion: This act would utilize forms of media and other entities to alert the public and state police in the case of a missing senior citizen with an impaired mental condition. These alerts have been effective in the past and NASW-RI fully supports this bill.

S – 2491

BY: Ciccone, Tassoni, Alves, Connors, and C Levesque

ENTITLED: Relating to criminal procedure –expungement of criminal records

This act would allow a person who has not been previously convicted or placed on probation for a felony to apply for expungement regardless of prior misdemeanor convictions.

Executive Director’s Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

Allows for easier and effective transition in the community.

S-2493

BY: Blais, Alves, McCaffrey, Goodwin, McBurney

ENTITLED: Relating to Health and Safety--Abortion

Introduced February 13, 2008, referred to Senate Judiciary. This act would prohibit any woman from being forced to have an abortion against her will and would provide for civil remedies for any abortions forced upon or required of a woman.

Executive Director’s Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

This is companion bill to H-7039 and H-7174. No woman can be forced to have an abortion against her will under preset laws and therefore NASW-RI does not see the need for this law.

S – 2498

BY: Miller, C Levesque, Sosmowski, and Pichardo

ENTITLED: Relating to health and safety – rights of nursing home patients

This act would extend privacy for visits by domestic partners.

Executive Director’s Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion: This act would extend privacy for visits in nursing homes by domestic partners. NASW-RI believes that nursing home patients deserve private time with their loved ones and fully supports this bill.

S – 2501

BY: Senators Goodwin and Maselli

ENTITLED: **RELATING TO CRIMINAL PROCEDURE- ELDERLY VIOLENCE PREVENTION ACT**

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

This act would create a right to speedy trials for victims over 60 years of age. It would also create the offence of exploitation of an elder and persons who committed such an offense would be guilty of a felony and subject to imprisonment and fines based on the amount exploited. NASW-RI supports efforts to reduce the exploitation and victimization of elderly persons.

S-2504

BY: Pichardo, Miller, Metts, Tassino and Walaska

ENTITLED: Relating to Property—Mortgage Foreclosure

Introduced February 13, 2008, referred to Senate Judiciary. This act would grant temporary ninety day relief from foreclosure to owner occupied residential homeowners, who become delinquent in their mortgage payments.

Executive Director's Recommendation

X Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

S – 2506

BY: Lanzi and Maselli

ENTITLED: An Act Relating to Criminal Offenses – Children

Executive Director's Recommendation

X Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

Definitions have to be iron clad and clear.

S – 2507

BY: Gallo

ENTITLED: RELATING TO CRIMINAL PROCEDURE – DISPOSITION OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CASES

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

S – 2517

BY: Sosnowski and Raptakis

ENTITLED: RELATING TO CRIMINAL PROCEDURE – SEARCH WARRANTS – MOTOR VEHICLE OFFENSES

Executive Director’s Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

S-2534

BY: Ciccone, Tassoni, Alves, Connors and C Levesque

ENTITLED: Relating to Criminal Procedure—Identification and Apprehension of Criminals

Introduced February 13, 2008, referred to Senate Judiciary. This act would allow for the sealing and/or destruction of records in criminal cases regardless of prior felony convictions if an individual meets all other criteria.

Executive Director’s Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

Nasw - RI supports any procedure which helps appropriate ex-convicted individuals to return productively to the community.

S – 2536

BY: Jabour, Ciccone, and Connors

ENTITLED: An Act Relating to Criminal Offenses – Children

This act would make leaving a child under 12 in a unattended motor vehicle a crime.

Executive Director’s Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

S – 2551

BY: Senators Pichardo, Gallo, Connors, P Fogerty, and Milller

ENTITLED: **RELATING TO ELECTIONS- GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

Executive Director’s Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

This act would authorize persons who will be eighteen on the day of the election to vote in the primary immediately preceding.

S – 2556

BY: Levesque

ENTITLED: An Act Relating to Labor and Labor Relations – Immigrant Status

This act would restrict inquiries into an individual’s immigration status.

Executive Director’s Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion: According to the Center for Immigration Studies, there are approximately 28.4 million immigrants living in the United States. Allowing inquiries into an individual’s immigration status can lead to possible racist and xenophobic tactics, both of which NASW-RI vehemently opposes. Therefore, restricting these inquiries can allow immigrants to share the civil liberties and rights that are guaranteed to every American.

S-2573

BY: Ruggerio, Gallo, McCaffrey, Goodwin and Lanzi

ENTITLED: Relating to Taxation—Sales and Use Taxes—Liability and Computation

Introduced February 13, 2008, referred to Senate Finance. This act would reduce the state sales tax to six percent.

Executive Director’s Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

Although reducing the state sales tax to six percent would increase funds of Rhode Island families, the state of Rhode Island cannot afford to decrease taxes during a time of a fiscal deficit.

S-2574

BY: Ruggerio, Goodwin, Ciccone, Gallo and Perry

ENTITLED: Relating to Human Services—Medical Assistance

Introduced February 13, 2008, referred to Senate Finance. This act would provide that Medicaid rates of payment to dental professionals would be reconstructed and enhanced and that Medicaid-eligible children will have better access to appropriate dental care.

Executive Director’s Recommendation

NASW - RI opposes the singling out of any one profession for changes in the Medicaid rate for services.

S – 2579

BY: Ruggerio, Doyle, Connors, McCaffrey, and Moura

ENTITLED: Relating to labor and labor relations – mediation

This act would provide for the payment of certain costs pertaining to compulsory mediation.

Executive Director’s Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

S – 2500

BY: Michael J. McCaffrey

ENTITLED: Relating to criminal procedure – Sentence and execution

This act would establish a sentence enhancement for those who commit misdemeanors or felonies for the benefit, at the direction of or in association with any criminal street gang or criminal street gang member, with the intent to promote, further or assist in the affairs of a criminal gang or criminal conduct by gang members.

Executive Director’s Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion: This act would enhance the sentence for those who commit a crime affiliated with gangs. NASW-RI believes that instead of introducing harsher sentences for these crimes, we should instead look at what causes those to turn to gang membership and place a gang-resistance program to be put in effect. According to the National Youth Gang Center’s 2002 survey there are approximately 21,500 gangs and 731,000 gang members in 2,300 US cities. This shows a huge outcry for resistance programs to be affected to get to the root of the problem, instead of implementing harsher penalties for punishment.

S – 2502

BY: Bates, and Maselli

ENTITLED: Relating to criminal offenses – Enticement of children

This act would increase the penalties for the enticement of children from a misdemeanor to a felony.

Executive Director’s Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion:

S – 2508

BY: William A. Walaska

ENTITLED: Relating to criminal offenses

This act would repeal enumerated special circumstances that could be relied on by the court to sentence an individual to life

imprisonment without the possibility of parole, and would make all defendants found guilty of first degree murder eligible for life imprisonment without the possibility of parole. This act would give the sentencing court discretion in all first degree murder convictions to sentence the defendant to either a life sentence or a life sentence without the possibility of parole based on all factors in aggravation or mitigation that would be presented and argued to the court at the sentencing hearing.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

S – 2510

BY: Harold M. Metts

ENTITLED: Relating to criminal offenses – Weapons

This act would make it unlawful for any person to knowingly receive, transport or possess any firearm which has had the importer's or manufacturer's serial number tampered with; exempts antique and collectible weapons legally possessed by collectors and dealers of firearms; makes the possession of a firearm by a minor unlawful unless he holds a valid permit and is in the presence of a parent, guardian or supervising adult, or falls into exceptions. This act would also establish criminal penalties for the unlawful discharge of a firearm on school grounds.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion: This bill would implement much more restrictive policies concerning guns and gun ownership. NASW-RI fully supports these restrictions and believes that they are essential to cutting down on crime and creating a more peaceful environment.

S – 2520

BY: Leo R. Blais

ENTITLED: Relating to criminal offenses – Jails and prisons

This act would make it a felony for a prisoner to possess any portable electronic communication device, with a violation punishable by a fine up to five thousand dollars (\$5,000) and/or a prison term of up to five (5) years.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

Senate Bill No.2529

BY Walaska, Bates

ENTITLED: ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- CHILD ADVOCATE OFFICE
(eliminate the Child Advocate Office)

Executive Director's Recommendations

Support Non Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

NASW-RI adamantly opposes this bill. The bill has ben withdrawn (3/08).

S – 2532

BY: Christopher B. Maselli

ENTITLED: Relating to health and safety – Rhode Island Resource Recovery Corporation

This act would require any commercial entity engaged in the business of collecting and disposing solid waste, which deposits the waste at the central landfill, to certify in writing every thirty (30) days, that such waste was not generated or collected outside the territorial limits of Rhode Island, setting forth the date and time of each deposit within said thirty (30) day period and would increase the fine for violation to fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000).

Executive Director’s Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion: NASW-RI fully supports recycling and maintaining landfills within the state. This bill would make sure that the waste at the landfill would be from within the boundaries of Rhode Island. NASW-RI fully supports this bill and believes that it would make it easier to upkeep the landfills and deter people from dumping waste that didn’t come from within state lines.

S – 2540

BY: Daniel P. Connors

ENTITLED: Relating to elections – Election material authorship

This act would repeal two elections sections relating to authorship of political publications.

Executive Director’s Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

S – 2542

BY: Daniel P. Connors

ENTITLED: Relating to elections – State board of elections

This act would provide that the state board of elections would no longer be responsible for furnishing binders, forms, cabinets and other supplies for the operation of the system of permanent registration of voters.

Executive Director’s Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

S – 2550

BY: Daniel P. Connors

ENTITLED: Relating to elections – Voting districts and officials

This act would clarify two (2) conflicting sections on telephones at polling places. Every polling place would have a telephone available for use by officials for official functions.

Executive Director’s Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

S – 2552

BY: June N. Gibbs

ENTITLED: Relating to human services – Certification of child care and youth workers

This act would add what constitutes “disqualifying information” to the definition section of the provisions of the general laws pertaining to the certification of child care and youth serving agency workers federal criminal records check.

Executive Director’s Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

S – 2567

BY: Ruggerio, Felag, Pichardo, DaPonte and Perry

ENTITLED: RELATING TO TAXATION – BUSINESS CORPORATION TAX

Executive Director’s Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

S – 2570

BY: Ruggerio, Tassoni, Doyle, Gallo, and Connors

ENTITLED: Relating to historic structures

This act would make amounts expended for qualified rehabilitation expenditures over \$1,000 subject to the prevailing wage and payments on behalf of an employer.

Executive Director’s Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

S – 2572

BY: Ruggerio, Connors, Lanzi, McBurney, and Doyle

ENTITLED: Relating to businesses and professions – Award of public contracts

This act would impose certain requirements on any entity which disburses public money to subcontractors.

Executive Director’s Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

S – 2579

BY: Ruggiero, Doyle, Connors, McCaffrey, and Moura

ENTITLED: Relating to labor and labor relations – mediation

This act would provide for the payment of certain costs pertaining to compulsory mediation.

Executive Director’s Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

S – 2580

BY: Ruggiero, Goodwin, Connors, McCaffrey, and DaPonte

ENTITLED: Relating to labor and labor relations – Municipal employees’ arbitration

This act would require the state to pay the cost of compulsory mediation involving municipal employees.

Executive Director’s Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion




S – 2582

BY: Ruggiero, Connors, McCaffrey, Goodwin, and Lanzi

ENTITLED: Relating to public property and works – Labor and payment of debts by contractors

This act would provide that every construction-related contract in excess of \$1,000 to which the state is a party, and which requires the employment of a contractor or provides mortgage guarantees, tax credits or the issuance of bonds or letters of credit would contain a provision stating the minimum wages to be paid.

Executive Director’s Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose    Monitor More Analysis Nee

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

Senate Bill No.2647

BY Issa

ENTITLED: ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT - DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILIES

(increase payments from the department of children, youth and families to licensed foster homes to twenty-one dollars and fifty cents (\$21.50) per day for each child up to twenty-one (21) years of age.)

Executive Director's Recommendations

Support Non Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

S – 2679

BY: Senators Paiva-Weed, Perry, C. Levesque, Blais, and Bates

ENTITLED: An Act Relating to Businesses and Professions – The Rhode Island Health Information Exchange Act of 2008. Introduced on February 26, 2008 and referred to Senate Health and Human Services.

This act would establish the “Rhode Island Health Information Exchange Act of 2008” for the purpose of providing safeguards and confidentially protection for health information exchange.

Executive Director’s Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

S – 2681

Sponsored By: Perry, Gallo, Goodwin, Sosnowski, Pichardo

Entitled: An Act Relating to Businesses and Professions-Pharmacies. act would set forth certain procedures to be followed by pharmacies in dispensing prescription and over-the-counter contraceptive drugs and/or devices.

Executive Director’s Recommendation:

Support Not Support Oppose Monitor More

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion: This act would set forth procedures for pharmacists concerning dispensing prescription and over-the-counter contraceptive drugs. NASW-RI fully supports a woman’s right to choose and believes that if requested, women should be able to receive the contraceptive drugs of their choice. NASW-RI respects pharmacists personal or religious beliefs, but believes that there should be an alternate venue for distribution if contraceptive drugs conflict with those pharmacists’ personal moral beliefs. See testimony at www.rinasw.info.

S – 2689

BY: Senator Maryellen Goodwin

ENTITLED: An Act Relating to Human Services. Introduced on February 26, 2008 and referred to Senate Health and Human Services.

This act would set forth various standards for the department of human services to properly ensure that persons who are not proficient

in English are informed of receiving appropriate interpreter services in various languages.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

This act would allow those who are not proficient in English to better understand applications, letters and notices that are set forth from the department of human services regarding benefit programs.

Senate Bill No.2697

BY Levesque C

ENTITLED: ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO TOWNS AND CITIES -- ZONING ORDINANCES

(authorize an accessory dwelling unit in a single-family residence as a reasonable accommodation for family members with disabilities)

Executive Director's Recommendations

XSupport Non Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

S – 2713

BY: Connors, C Levesque, Miller, and Perry

ENTITLED: RELATING TO COURTS AND CIVIL PROCEDURE – FAMILY COURT

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Not Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

This act would allow for a divorce in this state whether or not the parties would have been eligible to marry in Rhode Island so long as the marriage or domestic relationship is recognized elsewhere and as long as the parties meet the jurisdictional requirements for a divorce in Rhode Island. This act would take effect upon passage, and would apply to any marriage or other domestic relationship granting substantially similar rights and obligations of marriage whether entered into before or after the effective date of this act.

S – 2729

BY: Senator Leo R. Blais

ENTITLED: An Act Relating to Domestic Relations – Persons Eligible to Marry. Introduced on February 26, 2008 and referred to Senate Judiciary.

This act would prohibit same sex marriages in the state and would prohibit the state from recognizing a relationship between persons of the same sex as a marriage.

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

NASW does Conditional Support any legislation that prohibits the marriage between members of the same sex. NASW believes that members of the same sex should have the same marriage rights as two persons of the opposite sex.

Senate Bill No.2737

BY Goodwin, Miller, Perry, Connors

ENTITLED: ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES - DOMESTIC

(recognize domestic partners and would clearly define, the class of persons covered by the parental and family medical leave act)

Executive Director's

Recommendations

XSupport Non Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

Basic civil rights issue.

Senate Bill No.2817

BY Goodwin

ENTITLED: ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO ELECTIONS -- ADDRESS CONFIDENTIALITY OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTIMS

(Would expand the list of those persons/voters who may protect the confidentiality of their addresses from the recipients of domestic violence restraining orders to include members of their

Executive Director's Recommendations

X Support Non Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

Confidentiality can be a matter of life of death for woman and children estranged from a partner who batters.

S – 2831

BY: Senator Michael McCaffrey

ENTITLED: **RELATING TO ELECTIONS- POLLING PLACES**

Executive Director's Recommendation

Support Conditional Support Oppose Monitor More Analysis Needed

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion

This act would change the range of the number of potential voters for each district from 1900 to 3,000 and from 150 to 200 voters. NASW-RI will monitor the progress of the legislation for the time being.

S - 2169

Sponsored By: Miller

Entitled: An Act Relating To Health and Safety-Prohibiting persons from entering and remaining on public ways or sidewalks within a 100 foot radius of a health care facility.

Executive Director's Recommendation:

? Support Not Support Oppose Monitor More

Rationale/Quick Analysis/Opinion:

This act would provide for a criminal penalty and a civil remedy for any person who enters or remains on a public way or sidewalk adjacent to a reproductive health care facility who knowingly obstructs, detains, hinders, impedes or blocks another person's entrance to or exit from a reproductive health care facility. NASW-RI believes that it is a woman's right to choose and fully supports this bill. In 2000, The Supreme Court ruled in favor of implementing a 100-foot buffer zones around women's clinics stating that although the bill implements a regulation where some speech may take place, that it is certainly not a regulation of the content. The restrictions placed on the speech applies to all protestors, regardless of the viewpoints being expressed.

It is undoubtedly in the state's interest in protecting citizens' well-being and safety. In 2007 alone there were 249 violent encounters including: arson, vandalism, trespassing, assault and battery, burglary and stalking. There were also 11,702 disruptions at women's clinics including: harassing calls, bomb threats and suspicious packages, along with 10 clinic blockades.(National Abortion Federation) Above all else, this bill would ensure citizens' safety when entering these clinics, as well as still allowing protesters to get their message across at a safe distance. -Morgan Fuchs, NASW Representative
