

National Association of Social Workers

*NASW-PA comments on Regulation 16A-6916:  
Hours of Supervised Clinical Experience; Licensure by Endorsement*

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- Good morning, my name is Jenna Mehnert. I serve as the Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers.
- On behalf of the 6,100 social workers the National Association of Social Workers Pennsylvania Chapter represents, I offer support for these regulations and would like to thank the Regulatory Council and members of the State Board of Social Workers, Marriage and Family Therapist and Professional Counselors, this Commission and its staff for your work during the review process.
- Act 68 of 2008 is the result of strong support from members and staff of the General Assembly to address issues that were critical for the social work profession.
- NASW-PA worked with bill's prime sponsor, Rep. Marc Gergely, to draft legislation that would protect the professional title "social work," reduce the hours of required supervised experience necessary to earn a clinical license, and create endorsement provisions for experience clinicians looking to re-locate to the Commonwealth.
- The regulation before you matches what we believe to be the intent of Act 68 in the manner the reduction in supervision hours for social workers was implemented and outlining the requirements for licensure by endorsement for clinical social workers, marriage and family therapists and professional counselors from other states.
- NASW-PA did have concerns with early drafts of the regulations related to how the hours would be reduced from 3,600 to 3,000 specific to how many hours could be earned in any one year. But, after outlining our concerns, the Department of State moved forward with a model that would not harm professionals who were already in the process of earning their required hours.
- It is important that Pennsylvania be welcoming of licensed clinical social workers, marriage and family therapists and professional counselors from other states so the Commonwealth is not at a disadvantage in terms of receiving well-qualified professionals.
- Once again, I thank the Commission and staff for their efforts in bringing this regulation forward for consideration. If you have any questions, I would be pleased to answer them.