

**newsletter**

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**Sent:** Thursday, April 30, 2009 4:06 PM  
**Subject:** Clinical Social Work bills in Congress



**To:** Clinical Social Workers  
**Fr:** Howard Snooks, Ph.D., BCD, Center for Clinical Social Work/ABE

**Re: Two bills in the U.S. Senate that you may want to support!**

### **1. S. 687 Clinical Social Work Medicare Equity Act of 2009**

Senator Barbara Mikulski (D-MD) and co-sponsors Sen. Debbie Stabenow (D-MI) and Sen. Patty Murray (D-WA) have introduced the **Clinical Social Work Medicare Equity Act of 2009, S. 687**, a bill to permit Clinical Social Workers to be reimbursed for Medicare services in skilled nursing facilities. Bills identical to this one have not passed in years past; we at the Center urge you to consider supporting this bill in order to redress an act of discrimination against Clinical Social Workers.

If you wish to support S. 687, contact your Senators, especially if they serve on the Senate Finance Committee, in which the bill has been introduced (Baucus, Bingaman, Bunning, Cantwell, Carper, Conrad, Cornyn, Crapo, Enzi, Grassley, Hatch, Kerry, Kyl, Lincoln, Menendez, Nelson, Roberts, Rockefeller, Schumer, Snowe, Stabenow, Wyden)

You may reach your Senators' offices at the Capitol switchboard, 202-224-3121, or you may use direct phone and email connections found at [www.visi.com/juan/congress](http://www.visi.com/juan/congress).

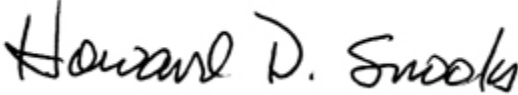
### **2. S. 686 Dorothy I. Height & Whitney M. Young, Jr., Social Work Reinvestment Act**

Sen. Barbara Mikulski (D-MD), working with NASW, has reintroduced a version of the Social Work Reinvestment bill, S. 686. Last session, we at the Center opposed that bill; however, we applaud Senator Mikulski for having made several changes, including two proposed by the Center: the inclusion of a Clinical Social Worker on the Commission, and, most important, the definition of Clinical Social Worker as a named reimbursable provider of services. Given the revisions, we at the Center urge you to consider supporting this bill (note: we do not endorse the House version, which, at present, omits the definition of Clinical Social Worker).

Please consider contacting your Senators, especially if they sit on the Senate Health, Education, Labor & Pensions Committee to which the bill has been introduced (Kennedy, Alexander, Brown, Bingaman, Burr, Casey, Coburn, Dodd, Enzi, Gregg, Harkin, Hatch, Isakson, McCain, Merkley, Mikulski, Murray, Reed, Roberts, Sanders). You may reach your Senators' offices at the Capitol switchboard, 202-224-3121, or you may use direct phone and email connections found at [www.visi.com/juan/congress](http://www.visi.com/juan/congress).

If you contact your Senators on these bills, you may want to send a copy of your communication to the Center at [abe@abecsw.org](mailto:abe@abecsw.org) and NASW at [efranklin@naswdc.org](mailto:efranklin@naswdc.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Howard D. Snooks". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Howard Snooks, Ph.D., BCD  
President, Board of Directors  
Center for Clinical Social Work

Note: Please do not respond to this email address. You can use [abe@abecsw.org](mailto:abe@abecsw.org) if you have any questions or comments.

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