

HJM 13

Support the Federal Social Work Reinvestment Act: Military Social Work

The Federal Social Work Reinvestment Act provides a comprehensive analysis of current trends within the academic and professional social work communities. Specifically, SWR Act will develop long-term recommendations and strategies to maximize the ability of America's social workers to serve their clients with expertise and care. The recommendations will be presented to Congress and the Executive Branch.

Areas of Focus: Fair market compensation, high educational debt, social work workforce trends, knowledge development, social work safety, and state level social work licensure and the impact these issues have on the areas of aging, child welfare, military and veterans affairs, mental and behavioral health and disability, criminal justice, and health.

Fact 1: Many soldiers returning home from Iraq and Afghanistan are suffering from mental health problems such as PTSD, Traumatic Brain Injury, & Major Depression.

Since October 2001, 1.6 million soldiers have been deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan.

In 2008, the RAND (Research AND Development) Corporation did a study that reported:

—300,000 troops returned from Iraq and Afghanistan with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder or severe depression.

—320,000 soldiers have returned with traumatic brain injuries.

Fact 2: Oregon Troops are more likely to die of suicide than in combat.

—Nearly 1 in 3 Oregon suicides is a veteran.

Social Workers offer services to soldiers and their families by providing: —Mental Health Treatment, —Crisis Intervention, —Discharge Planning, —Case Management, —Advocacy, —Counseling and Support

WHAT CAN WE DO?

Through reinvesting in the social work profession, we can improve quality and access to mental health treatment for our returning soldiers. To address the *looming workforce crisis in social work*, NASW Oregon is introducing a Joint Memorial (HJM 13) urging the Oregon Delegation, Congress, and the Administration to pass the Dorothy I. Height/Whitney M. Young Jr. Social Work Reinvestment Act.

Invest in Social Workers, invest in our returning soldiers.

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