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**NASW/CT 2016 Legislative Priorities**

* **Protecting the Safety Net for Connecticut’s Most Vulnerable Citizens and Fighting for Family Economic Security**

NASW/CT holds the position that every Connecticut resident and family should be able to meet their basic human needs. In this spirit, NASW/CT opposes cuts to safety net programs that serve Connecticut’s most vulnerable populations, and supports proposals that prevent individuals from falling into poverty.

* **Paid Family Leave**

NASW/CT supports any legislation that expands current family medical leave in such a way that it can be utilized by caregivers who are currently unserved as they cannot afford to take unpaid leave.

* **Protecting and Strengthening the Profession**

NASW/CT supports legislation that will protect our clients and improve the working conditions of professional social workers by changing the current ratio of social workers to beds in nursing homes to allow a more reasonable case load and improved quality of care.

* **Supporting Knowledge of Self**

NASW/CT supports legislation that will allow individuals born prior to 1983, who were subsequently adopted, to have access to their original birth certificate.

* **Sexual Orientation Protections**

NASW/CT supports legislation that will modernize the statutory definition of sexual orientation and will move sexual orientation, alongside other protected classes, into already existing statues that prohibit discrimination in employment, housing, public accommodations, etc.