



Human Service Subcommittee
209 House Office Building
402 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Subject: NASW-Florida's Support for HB 1439 – Strengthening Florida's Mental Health Act

Dear Honorable Members of the Human Service Subcommittee,

On behalf of the National Association of Social Workers – Florida Chapter (NASW-FL), we strongly support HB 1439, which aims to improve discharge planning, medication access, school-based health services, and crisis response teams for seniors. These critical services align with social workers' daily responsibilities, ensuring comprehensive care and support for Florida's most vulnerable populations.

Social workers play a key role in effective discharge planning by coordinating care transitions, advocating for medication access, and addressing social determinants of health. Expanding school-based health services also strengthens early intervention efforts, ensuring students receive necessary mental and physical health support. Crisis response teams, particularly for seniors, provide immediate intervention, reducing hospitalizations and improving long-term outcomes.

HB 1439 enhances the framework in which social workers operate, allowing them to continue delivering essential services that improve quality of life, reduce systemic barriers, and promote well-being across all communities. We urge your support for this bill to strengthen Florida's healthcare infrastructure and provide the necessary resources to those who need them most.

Florida faces a growing mental health crisis, and **HB 1439 is a significant step toward improving care, reducing barriers, and ensuring individuals receive the support they need.** We urge the committee to advance this legislation and demonstrate a commitment to strengthening mental health services for all Floridians.

Thank you for your leadership on this issue. Please do not hesitate to reach out if NASW-FL can provide further insight or support as this bill moves forward.

Sincerely,

Christina Cazanave-McCarthy, MSW
Executive Director

Dr. Michael J. Alicea
President

Pedro Serrano-Mejia, MSW
Legislative Chair

Advancing the profession and practice of social work in Florida