

Adelphi University 2023-2024 Social Action Project

Group 10: Dana Katz,
Karina Cerna
Chavi Gutnicki
Bracha Hauer

Topic: Health Care

Advocacy Method: Uplifting Voices

CONNECT

- ❖ Connected and discussed possible topics
- ❖ Decided on Advocating for the NY Home Care Savings and Reinvestment Act (S7800/A8470)
- ❖ Discussed the topic, and chose roles and methods of advocacy (research, write a script, make a list of legislative leaders involved to send emails to advocating bills)
- ❖ Decided on next steps and decided on communication methods (phone calls and WhatsApp)
- ❖ Set a timeline
- ❖ Met to discuss what we accomplished and the responses we received, thoughts about the project

Research & Thoughts

The mission of social workers is rooted in our set of core values; service, social justice, dignity and worth of the person, importance of human relationships, integrity, and competence

As social workers, we must work to advance human well-being by helping people meet their basic needs while paying close attention to empowering those who are vulnerable and oppressed

We each bring individual experiences and life narratives that impact our feelings about particular topics. These personal experiences and stories can be used as effective tools in our advocacy efforts

A8470/S7800

“The Homecare Savings and Reinvestment Act” was introduced by Gustavo Rivera in the NY State Assembly (A8470) it was passed through the Assembly and is sitting in the NY Senate Health Committee (S7800)

This bill fights against proposed major health care cuts in NY state that our governor is looking for, it proposes wage increases for home healthcare workers, and allows for choices in how New Yorkers decide to receive their home healthcare (not only relying on nursing homes and what insurance companies decide)

Flood Emails to NY State legislatures discussing why we must end healthcare cuts and get this bill passed

- Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins
- Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie
- Our local representatives
- NY State Senate Health Committee (Gustavo Rivera, Jacob Ashby, Patrick Gallivan, Samra Brouk, Simcha Felder, Brad Holyman, John Mannion, Jack Martins, Rachel May, Zellnor Myrie, Steven Rhoads, Julia Salazar, Daniel Stec, Kevin Thomas, Lea Webb)
- NY State Assembly Health Committee (Amy Paulin, Scott Bendett, Rodneyse Bichotte Hermelyn, Jake Blumencranz, Edward Braunstein, Marjorie Byrne, Jeffrey Dinowitz, Phara Souffrant Forrest, Jarett Gandolfo, Jessica Gonzalez-Rojas, Scott Gray, Aileen Gunther, Andrew Hevesi, Josh Jensen, Anna Kelles, Nikki Lucas, John McDonald III, John McGowan, Demond Meeks, John Mikulin, Jenifer Raikumar, Karines Reyes, Linda Rosenthal, Nader Sayegh, Michaelle Solages, Phil Steck)

Responses we received

We heard that many others are emailing who share our concerns (great!)

Staffers will continue to flag emails (though they don't know what the outcome will be)

Support for us continuing our efforts to keep pressure on (from those who support this bill)

Our group
clicked the link
to support this
bill on the NY
State Senate
site and also
researched
relevant
articles

- <https://nysfocus.com/2024/04/09/medicaid-health-homes-budget-cut-hochul>
- <https://www.nysenate.gov/legislation/bills/2023/S7800>
- <https://www.newsfromthestates.com/article/families-crisis-struggle-reach-services-medicare-cuts-threaten-make-it-worse>

What we learned and accomplished from this Social Action Project

- As social workers, we must be aware of legislation that affects the well-being of the clients we serve and work to advocate for positive change
- We have a voice- connecting with those in power can make change—especially when we are powerful in our numbers!
- Became more knowledgeable about the legislative process
- Learned who our local representatives are, the process of policymaking, and the role and importance of sub-committees
- Experienced the power of collaboration with fellow social workers
- Felt the empowerment of being able to work outside of the box or our comfort zone to accomplish positive societal change