



**The National Association of Social Workers-MS Chapter
Opposes the Mississippi Illegal Alien Certified Bounty Hunter Program
(House Bill 1484)**

The National Association of Social Workers, Mississippi Chapter (NASW-MS) is deeply saddened and disturbed by the proposed (House Bill 1484), authored by Representative Justin Keen, District 6 of Desoto County. This proposed legislation aims to expedite the deportation of undocumented immigrants in the state. If the new legislation is passed, a Certified Bounty Hunter Program will be created and offer a \$1000 reward to bounty hunters for successful deportations of undocumented immigrants. HB 1484 will not allow advocacy support of undocumented immigrant families if arrested in the state of Mississippi. While it is purported this bill will create better safety, we have not found any data to support the claim of better safety.

As social work professionals, our members believe HB 1484 could have harmful impacts on families who may be separated from their children and falsely arrested as being undocumented and they could be in the state on temporary protective or another status. The undocumented persons deserve the right to be treated with respect and dignity, and we stand boldly against the “environment of fear and mistreatment” of all people.

The National Association of Social Workers, Mississippi Chapter, joins with members, other local leaders, and organizations for collective action against this proposed legislation. If this bill is passed, it would mirror previous and current aggressive raids in Mississippi as children witness parents being arrested and taken from their home. We express our concerns of families being threatened and placed in “round-up facilities” awaiting deportation and families living in fear too traumatized to leave home for basic needs. NASW-MS members, Chapter Board, and leadership expresses discontentment with family separations and child welfare being at danger because individuals could be improperly classified as undocumented in the proposed legislation.

Our members will remain vigilant and urge a call to action for everyone to mobilize and contact their state legislator, visit the Mississippi State Capitol, attend NASW-MS Advocacy Day, and call lawmakers at (601) 359-3770 to oppose the proposed bounty hunter bill. The time to mobilize and act is now. We urge each social worker to view [HB 1484 - History of Actions/Background](#). Social workers have an opportunity to stand up against this harmful legislation and social injustices of all children and families.

**National Association of Social Workers-Mississippi Chapter
Chapter Board of Directors and Leadership**

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