

Office of the Governor  
Michelle Lujan Grisham  
490 Old Santa Fe Trail Room 400  
Santa Fe, NM 87501

NASW-NM  
4223 Montgomery Blvd NE,  
Albuquerque, NM 87109

July 16, 2021

Dear Honorable Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham:

The National Association of Social Workers - New Mexico Chapter (NASW-NM) is writing to you on the behalf of over 4,500 social workers throughout the state of New Mexico, including over 700 who are members of NASW-NM. We urge you to act on the number of vacant seats presently on the New Mexico Board of Social Work Examiners under the Regulation and Licensing Department.

Per Title 16, Chapter 63, Part 1, Section 12 of the New Mexico Administrative Code, it is stated under the Board Governance that the board shall be made up of seven members, four of whom are engaged in social work practice and three additional members representing the public. Additionally, it is also stated under the Administrative Code that the board members shall be appointed by the governor. Presently, the Board of Social Work Examiners has only two of the seven seats filled, by Sandra Turner, LCSW and Roxroy Reid, LCSW. NASW-NM is urging you to immediately fill the five vacant board positions as directed by the guidelines outlined in the Administrative Code.

The vacancies on the board are harmful and a disservice to all NM citizens. It negatively impacts the services provided to New Mexico's most vulnerable communities by social workers. As you are already aware, NM faces workforce shortages, specifically in behavioral health, child welfare, and with older adult populations. Without a path to licensing the development of the social work profession will be negatively affected and NM will continue to have workforce shortages.

Further, we recognize this to be an issue that affects all behavioral health provider boards, including Counseling and Therapy, and Psychology. By having the required number of seats on the board filled, we can continue to improve upon the quality of social work professionals licensed in New Mexico and better meet the needs of underserved populations.

Please feel free to reach out to me, if you have any questions or would like to discuss further. Thank you for taking the time to hear our concerns.

Sincerely,



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Executive Director NASW-NM  
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