

The Human Service Sector's Legislative Priorities in the 116th Congress



NATIONAL
HUMAN SERVICES
ASSEMBLY

The National Human Services Assembly (National Assembly) is a Washington, D.C.-based association comprised of some of the largest national nonprofit human service organizations. In aggregate, members and their affiliates impact nearly every household in America—as consumers, donors, or volunteers. The National Assembly represents and advocates for organizations that serve youth, people with disabilities, families, and older adults to build a connected and engaged nation that promotes and supports human services so all people can reach their potential and contribute to vibrant, thriving communities. We are uniquely positioned to provide expertise and guidance about the human service sector to any legislative office. Our legislative priorities for the 116th Congress are to:

Protect the Johnson Amendment

The 115th Congress saw a number of attacks on the Johnson Amendment, and by extension, nonprofit nonpartisanship. The human services sector, and the larger nonprofit sector as a whole most effectively builds and maintains the well-being that allows communities to reach their full potential when resources are focused on mission-related work, not political campaigns.

To learn more about how the Johnson Amendment protects nonprofit nonpartisanship, see our Johnson Amendment [talking points](#).

Pass Higher Education Act Reauthorization

The reauthorization of the Higher Education Act (HEA) is important for building community well-being because it provides entryways for access to affordable and high-quality post-secondary education. The National Assembly urges members of the 116th Congress to introduce HEA reauthorization that makes college education affordable, provides opportunities for students to become high-quality educators themselves, aids K-12 students in preparation for higher education, helps low-income students afford college, and incentivizes careers in public service such as human services.

Pass a Clean Dream Act

The National Assembly supports a practical approach to immigration policy that does not use Dreamers as a bargaining chip for border security measures. A clear pathway to citizenship for undocumented youth and young adults who came to the U.S. as children helps our communities grow with shared prosperity.

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Protect the 2020 Census

Over 300 programs that help lay the foundation for strong communities rely on accurate census data for funding. An inaccurate census count threatens well-being by compromising funding for federal programs, including many critical human services. A precise census also safeguards fair representation.

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Pass a Clean Dream Act

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Young people are particularly susceptible to the consequences of policy choices regarding immigration. Exposure to the prolonged, toxic levels of stress that are associated with the uncertainty about their futures and the prospect of being separated from their families, friends, and communities disrupts physical, cognitive, and emotional development and weakens the structures that support long-term well-being.

The National Assembly supports the passage of a “clean” Dream Act, to learn more, see our Immigration talking points.

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Protect the 2020 Census

continued from front

Citizenship Question

The National Assembly opposes the untested addition of a question asking every household in the country to record which members of their family are U.S. citizens. Civil rights groups, experts who advise the Census Bureau, and former Census Bureau directors believe that the question will jeopardize an accurate head count because many non-citizens will fear that the government will use their status in harmful ways.

The National Assembly urges members of the 116th Congress to pass legislation to remove the citizenship question from the 2020 Census.

Census Funding

The decennial census is a massive effort to count all residents living in the United States. To conduct the testing and research required to ensure the accuracy of such a tremendous undertaking, the Census Bureau must be sufficiently funded. Although the census received more money than what was expected in the 2018 omnibus spending bill, that amount is still not enough to conduct a fair and accurate survey.

In appropriations for fiscal year 2019 and 2020, the National Assembly urges Congress to provide additional funding to the Census Bureau to conduct a fair and accurate census.



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