

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

February 27, 2002

Support Social Work Research **Cosponsor the National Center for Social Work Research Act**

Dear Colleague:

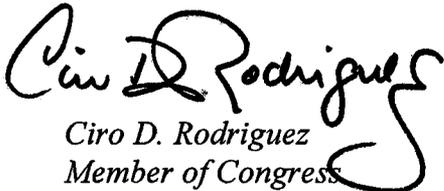
On Wednesday, March 27, we will re-introduce legislation to establish a **National Center for Social Work Research**. This center, which would be established within the National Institutes of Health, would provide a focal point for interdisciplinary, family-centered, and community based social work research designed to help policymakers make wise and efficient policy decisions.

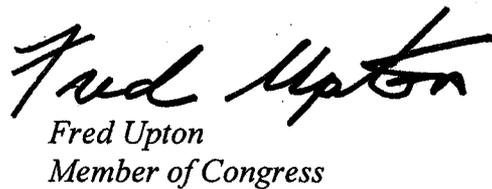
As policymakers grapple with the complex problems facing America today, social workers can be found working on the front lines in children's hospitals, nursing homes, elementary schools and a variety of service agencies. Social workers are in a unique position to provide valuable research information on how to address societal challenges like teenage pregnancy, substance abuse, and family violence. However, the bulk of research addressing these complex social issues has produced clinical and empirical data that is difficult to translate into effective policy solutions. **The Social Work Research Center would provide a venue for this research to be coordinated and disseminated to Congress and the public.**

While the Federal Government provides funding for various social work research activities through the National Institutes of Health and other Federal agencies, it is difficult to coordinate or consolidate these critical activities. Furthermore, for the data we do have, there has been little overall assessment of need nor the opportunity to translate the data into effective policy recommendations. **The establishment of a National Center for Social Work Research would result in improved behavioral and mental health care policy proposals for our nation's children, families, and elderly.**

If you would like to sponsor this legislation, or if you have questions about the bill, please contact Laura Marquez of Representative Rodriguez's staff at 225-1640 or Jane Williams of Representative Upton's staff at 225-3761.

Sincerely,


Ciro D. Rodriguez
Member of Congress


Fred Upton
Member of Congress

Previous cosponsors include: Abercrombie, Bentsen, Bonior, Carson, Christensen, Clyburn, Cramer, Cunningham, Ehrlich, Evans, Filner, Frost, Gonzalez, Granger, Green, Greenwood, Hilliard, Holden, Isakson, Jackson-Lee, Johnson (CT), Kelly, Kilpatrick, Lampson, Leach, Maloney, McCollum, McKinney, Meeks, Millender-McDonald, Mink, Morella, Owens, Price, Reyes, Rivers, Ross, Roybal-Allard, Sanders, Snyder, Solis, Towns, Velazquez, Waxman, Woolsey, Wynn.