



# Department of Social Work

**BEAVER COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES  
APPALACHIAN STATE UNIVERSITY**

## Position Statement

May 5, 2016

In light of recent local, state, and national discussions and concerns about discrimination and social and economic injustice, including the controversy regarding NC House Bill 2, we want to reaffirm that the Department of Social Work at Appalachian State University promotes the rights of all individuals. Our vision of a just society includes one in which hard work yields a living wage and people must no longer live in fear of discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression.

Our position is grounded in the National Association of Social Workers' (NASW) Code of Ethics. NASW urges social workers to prevent and eliminate “domination of, exploitation of and discrimination against any person, group, or class on the basis of race, ethnicity, national origin, color, sex, sexual orientation, age, marital status, political belief, religion, or mental or physical disability” (NASW Code of Ethics, 2008). Social workers are similarly called to challenge social injustice and to promote the dignity and worth of the person. Finally, our Code of Ethics encourages all social workers to “engage in social and political action that seeks to ensure that all people have equal access to the resources, employment, services, and opportunities they require to meet their basic human needs and to develop fully” (NASW Code of Ethics, 2008).

We stand with our students, the Appalachian community, our fellow UNC-system Departments of Social Work, and our profession in supporting economic prosperity, promoting social justice, opposing discrimination, and affirming the worth and dignity of every individual.