

# NASW- Alabama 2016 Advocacy Day

## 2016 Advocacy Day Issues at Glance

To be addressed: February 10, 2016

### Death Penalty Reform

Capital punishment is literally a life-or-death issue. NASW –Alabama will advocate in support of several death penalty reforms, including better funding for indigent defense, a moratorium on executions, and an end to the “judicial override” policy allowing judges to impose a death sentence despite a jury recommendation of life without parole.

### “Ban the Box”

Too often, a criminal record is a barrier to getting work and rebuilding a life. The “Ban the Box” movement seeks to remove criminal history checkboxes from job applications. This change would reduce recidivism and allow qualified applicants to be considered on their merits before disclosing their past. NASW nationally along with the Alabama Chapter will work to promote “Ban the Box” efforts across all states.

### Voting Rights

Democracy works best when everyone’s voice is heard. Reforms like automatic voter registration (*with an opt-out*), portable voting records and the ability to update voter registrations securely online would modernize our state’s registration system. Changes like same-day registration and multi-day voting would allow more voters to cast a ballot. NASW- Alabama will support efforts to modernize Alabama’s Voter Registration System and to improve voter participation.

### Pay Day /Title Lending Reform

The gap between low wages and the real cost of living is vast for many Alabamians. Payday and Auto Title Loans can widen that gap. With maximum annual interest rates of **456 percent** for Payday Loans and **300 percent** for Title Loans in Alabama, these loans sap wealth and resources from too many of our state’s families and communities. NASW- Alabama will advocate pursuing tighter regulations on Payday and Title Lending in Alabama.

### Youth Tobacco Prevention

Tobacco use is the single most preventable cause of death and disease in the United States. In 2014 the Alabama Youth Tobacco Survey results were that 17.8 percent of Alabama High school students are current smokers. Currently Alabama Youth are being targeted by the tobacco industry as “replacement smokers”. As users quit or fall victim to diseases or death from tobacco use, the tobacco companies reach to the youth as the new generation of smokers. NASW- Alabama will support an initiative to introduce statewide Tobacco Prevention and Control Programs within communities throughout the state to establish environments to foster the adoption of policies that restrict access and marketing of tobacco products to Alabama youth.