

Support Senate Bill 3761

Sponsored by Senator Ann Gillespie and Representative Mark Walker

Issue: A growing number of municipalities are looking to hire social workers to address constituent issues and guide them to available resources. To help municipalities recruit quality candidates, additional workforce incentives are needed.

Solution: Senate Bill 3761 expands the School Social Work Shortage Loan Repayment Program to include social workers employed by an Illinois municipality (does not includes those who report directly to a law enforcement agency). Currently, the program offers up to \$6,500 in student loan assistance to borrowers who have been employed at a school for at least one year. With passage of SB 3761 social workers employed at local municipalities would become eligible for loan assistance.

Senate Bill 3761:

- SB 3761 will expand the School Social Work Shortage Loan Repayment Program. It will also expand the program to include social workers employed by an Illinois municipality.
- Recipients of the loan repayment program will be eligible for up to \$6,500.
- This bill will give priority to individuals who are of racial minority.
- Racial minorities are underrepresented as school social workers in elementary, secondary schools, and in Illinois municipalities.
- This bill will encourage minority individuals to seek a profession in the social work field.
- This bill will expand diverse representation of social work professionals.
- This bill will allow municipalities to recruit and retain qualified social workers.
- The bill passed the Illinois Senate 55–0.