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Occupy Wall Street NASW-RI Policy Statement

“Why has government been instituted at all?”

“Because the passions of men will not conform to the dictates of reason and justice, without constraint.”

–Alexander Hamilton (1788)

“Capitalism should work for people rather than people work for Capitalism.”

–R. Harris

The National Association of Social Workers - Rhode Island Chapter supports participatory democracy as demonstrated by Occupy Wall Street. On September 17, 2011 hundreds of protestors from all different backgrounds gathered on Wall Street in hopes to make corporate America more socially accountable to people living in the United States. A common statement from protestors is; **“We are the 99% that will no longer tolerate the greed and corruption of the 1%”**. Demonstrators believe that it is financial institutions on Wall Street (and other major business districts) that have created the economic inequality in the United States and the terrible economic situation that is present in our nation today.

Three major points by protestors are:

1. Government is more willing to bail out large corporations than to assist the poor, working poor, and the middle class.
2. Another concern is the amount of money that has been spent on wars when this money could also be used to help with domestic programs.
3. Protestors are also upset that due to current economic regulatory policies, there will be more cuts to major programs such as Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security.

Since the beginning of protests on Wall Street, others have taken up the cause in major cities across America including Boston, Las Vegas, Washington D.C., as well as locally in Providence.

The National Association of Social Workers- Rhode Island Chapter fully supports the Occupy Wall Street movement and encourages members to support the movement*. We believe this a fundamental social action that promotes social and economic justice, a corner stone of the mission of Social Work.

Cassandra Menz
NASW-RI Representative

Bruce Rollins, MSW
President, NASW - RI Board of Directors

Reviewed & Edited:
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Executive Director

* If you choose to support Occupy Wall Street activities directly, please be reminded that all actions taken and subsequent consequences remain the responsibility of the individual choosing to take the action. Many of these demonstrations have begun to result in arrests and even injuries during the arrests. Please take great care if you participate in one of the rallies or other demonstrations directly. (Revision RNH)