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## *Statement of Principles: The Next Four Years*

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November 19, 2020

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The American Council for School Social Work (ACSSW) respects the views and opinions of all of its constituency bases. We promote and support the integrity, dignity, and worth of the person as upheld in the NASW Code of Ethics, and we honor these values in all the work we do. At times during the last four years, the leadership of this remarkable nation has undermined the dignity and worth of a person in unforeseen ways. A deleterious response to a medical global pandemic, emergent racial and civil unrest, and economic strife are conditions that have tested our fortitude, challenged our democracy, and misaligned our moral compass. However, we remain strong and steadfast in our quest to uphold the values of the profession and will do so with rigor and grace.

We congratulate Joe Biden and Kamala Harris on their election to the Presidency and Vice-Presidency, respectively, and will support their initiatives that move these values forward. The ACSSW Board of Directors is unified in its belief that bi-partisan representation in all forms, the right to vote, and the fair and equal treatment of all persons are hallmarks of democracy. We hold sacred the opinion that through just and moral action, societal good will occur with hard work, dedicated energy, courageous conversations, and a commitment to social justice. Thus, we are ready to embark on a new era that brings hope to a struggling nation. The ACSSW firmly believes that the profession of school social work will always find allies in the highest offices of the land, and we look forward to continue to do all and everything we can to better the lives of children and adolescents in our nation's schools.

As we look forward, we are once again determined to advance our commitment to the following three ACSSW themes:

- trauma and healing,
- equity, and
- professional proficiency,

that will continue to undergird our philosophy, our direction, and our work as representative of the school social work profession. We welcome diverse opinion, we encourage creative ideas, and we recommend agendas that bring forward solution-focused thinking in what we believe will be a new era in national political leadership.

Finally, the ACSSW is honored to know we have supporters far and wide that believe in our mission and our goals. We remain committed to serving you in that capacity, and we look forward to continuing our growth as a national organization representing and supporting school social workers.