

Statement on the Removal of Social Worker Emily Feiner from Town Hall Event

The National Association of Social Work-New York City/New York State has learned about the forced removal of social worker Emily Feiner at Representative Mike Lawler's town hall forum in Somers on Sunday (5/4/25) while advocating for the ethics of her profession. The incident was recorded on video and was witnessed by other participants who screamed in protests at what they had witnessed. Unfortunately, this case is not unique.

Rather, it is one of a growing national trend in which citizens, including those who seek justice, transparency, and the common good; are being removed or silenced from these political spaces. Ms. Feiner's removal follows on the heels of another case in Idaho earlier this year, which raised concerns about the decline of civic engagement and public discourse.

Social workers are professionally trained advocates, grounded in the code of ethics rooted in human dignity, advocacy and active participation in the democratic process. Ms. Feiner's treatment raises concerns about the silencing of citizens and the targeting of professionals who are committed to speaking out on behalf of vulnerable communities.

NASW-New York City & New York State stand in solidarity with Ms. Feiner and all social workers who continue to show up and speak out in increasingly difficult public and political spaces. We call for transparency and a renewed commitment to protecting the rights of all individuals to participate in the democratic process without fear of intimidation or removal.



