

Testimony in favor of LD 1990

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Jessie Greenbaum
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To the Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services,

I support LD 1990 to request a moratorium on exam requirements and a task force to address licensing for Social Workers in Maine. I am an older adult who is in graduate school for my master's in Social Work. I am passionate about being a case manager for people with disabilities. My passion originates from my life experiences with people with disabilities. The field of social work needs mature and experienced adults who can be helpful to people in difficult situations. The depth of our background can be very helpful. We do not want an exam to delay and create further barriers to becoming social workers. There are many positions on social work that are not defined as counselors, and we should be able to do this work without the counseling license. There is a place for the supervision for counselors but the moratorium on the exam, allows case manager and counselors with supervision to get started on important work that is needed in Maine.

The moratorium would increase the opportunity to develop an exam with equity for languages, cultures, and age. Case managers and counselors with the same language as their clients is very important to success. By adopting this request, we can serve people in their own language and with experienced social workers. The state of Maine will move closer to serving the need for more social workers when the exam is in moratorium and licensing is redesigned.

I support LD 1990.

Jessie Greenbaum