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LD 1990

I am writing in support of LD 1990. Association of Social Work Boards has long resisted transparency, so it was no surprise to me when they finally released demographic data it was immediately apparent that the test disadvantages social workers of color. I have read that fewer than half of the Black candidates passed the ASWB Clinical Exam on their first attempt, while more than four out of five white candidates passed the exam on their first try. I have heard from social workers of color that the questions are very much framed with white cultural assumptions and expectations.

We, the state of Maine, have effectively given monopoly power to the ASWB with little to no oversight. They set rates and decide how many social workers will pass. This is not a just system, in my opinion.