

TESTIMONY SUPPORTING LD 2140

Good Afternoon,

I would like to strongly encourage the passing of LD 2140, the bill for Interstate Social Work Licensure Compact. This bill is critical in expanding access to care for much-needed mental health services.

The lack of an Interstate SW Licensure Compact in Maine is currently impacting access to care in my private practice in two ways:

1) I worked as an LCSW at Portsmouth Naval Shipyard for 18 years, providing counseling for active duty military, all branches of service, veterans, and family members. I retired from federal employment in December, 2022, and started a private practice in York, ME. Many military members have contacted me to continue services, but as AD members move to other duty stations in other states, I have not been able to meet this critical need for mental health services. Licensing in each state can cost several hundred dollars per state, along with a burdensome licensing process.

2) I am currently a provider with VA Community Care, and living and working in York County, I receive many veteran referrals from neighboring states. Unless a veteran is willing to travel long distances to my office in York, ME, I am not able to provide Telehealth services for this vastly underserved population.

We need to follow suit with other states that have enacted this bill in order to provide critical mental health services, especially for our underserved populations, including active duty members, military families, and veterans.

Thank you,
Janie Gendron, LCSW
York, ME

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Janie J. Gendron, LCSW, PLLC, York, ME
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