Bridget Sakowski Lewiston LD 1298

In a 2022 study on the Association of Social Work Boards exam pass rate analysis, it was found that there is glaring disparities in pass rates among racial groups, particularly for Black test takers. It also raised concerns about disparities in pass rates for other demographics, including social workers who are older adults. It is essential that not only does the social work profession confront racism in all areas of our profession, but create welcoming spaces where all of our colleagues can thrive. As a LCSW in the state, I strongly encourage our legislators to establish an alternative pathway to licensure, address racial bias in our institutions, and increase the community of license mental healthcare providers in our state. We can no longer be complicit in gatekeeping institutions and tests that do not reflect the diversity of skills and experiences in our profession.