

January 27, 2026

Jamie P. Lajoie

Written Testimony

To whom it may concern,

In reference to LD 2074 - An Act to Update the Requirements for Social Worker Licensure, I am writing this letter to express my disappointment with the recent denial of my LSW-C (24965) at the Social Work Board meeting, October 10, 2025. This denial was based off from me having a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice Degree and it did not meet the educational requirements.

In June 2025, I applied for the open Child Protective Case Worker (Investigations) out of the Biddeford, Maine DHHS Office. During this process, I submitted my un-official college transcripts for review, and it was consistent with individuals with a Criminal Justice BS Degree can be hired and licensed as a Social Worker in the State of Maine. There were a few classmates in my Foundations training that were approved with a Criminal Justice Degree. There are also a handful of Social Workers in District 1 that hold a Criminal Justice Degree. I received and accepted a job offer on June 16, 2025, and my official start date was July 7, 2025.

On Thursday, September 25, 2025, I completed and graduated Foundations training which is a total of 131 Contact hours. This training is required to be a Social Worker in the State of Maine. After completing this training, I learned that my LSW-C was still in pending status, so I followed up with this. In September 2025, I received an email from the Social Work Board requesting my official transcript, and I sent it immediately. I was told that my license would be back in review status.

After several follow-up emails between the Social Work Board, my supervisor and I, there was a decision that my application was going under review set for the October 10, 2025, Social Work Board Meeting. I joined this meeting via zoom and learned that my license was denied based on the above-mentioned information.

After reviewing the criteria, (Bachelor Level Educational Worksheet) needing a minimum of twelve (12) courses on my transcript(s) that are directly related to social work or social welfare. My transcript meets this requirement, with twelve (12) courses that are directly related to social work that I completed. I since had to take another

position with DHHS (Child Family Services) awaiting my appeal to the Maine Social Work Board.

I strongly feel that a Criminal Justice bachelor's degree (120 Credit Degree) should be considered to meet the educational requirements to obtain the State of Maine Social Work License to be a caseworker in this great State of Maine, so therefore, I am for the proposed legislation bill LD2074.

Thank you,

Jamie P. Lajoie