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LD 1990

I am testifying in support of LD1990 to improve licensing procedure for certain social workers by removing exam requirement for BSW and MSW graduating from an accredited school.

The exams have never been shown to indicate social work proficiency. The exam has been shown to be racially biased. In Maine BIPOC ASW exam takers have experienced significant disparities.

The exam is costly. People need to buy prep material . They may need to retake the exam at \$230.00 each time. There have been delays in people being able to retake the exam.

I work in a school where I see the demand for behavioral health professionals is great and there simply aren't enough social workers to meet the needs of our student.

Students frequently have long waits before they get the help . Any barriers that can be removed such as this exam so that our students can receive the help they need should be considered.