

Jane Conrad
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LD 2140

I write in support of LD 2140, which would allow patients/clients of social workers to receive counseling from their therapist regardless of where the patient or therapist is presently located.

Ours is a very mobile society and many Mainers spend parts of the year visiting family or vacationing elsewhere. In addition, seriously ill patients may spend extended periods staying with a family member in another state.

It is critical that patients/clients who wish to continue mental health support be able to do so, and that providers be able to be reimbursed for this care. We are fortunate to live in a time when telehealth visits are possible. I urge the legislature to pass legislation which will enable patients to receive uninterrupted mental health care.

Undoubtedly, it is the State's responsibility to ensure that social workers are properly licensed, but I am confident that the legislature can establish inter-state licensing criteria that accomplishes both the goal of ensuring professional competence, as well as ensuring that patients/clients receive needed mental health care.

Thank you for considering my testimony in support of LD 2140.