

Lisa Dezso  
Pittsfield  
LD 632

Dear Senator Senator Curry, Representative Roberts, and members of the committee.

My name is Lisa Dezso, LCSW, LADC, CCS, and I live in the town of Pittsfield Maine. I am writing today to ask you to support amending LD 632.

I am one of the many who can apply the cliché “I’m a therapist because I love helping people.” The work that I do is important, not only individually to the people I serve, as their lives are valuable to me and they are worthy of help, but to the state of Maine as a whole. Maine’s fight against the opioid crisis is also my fight, and the fight of my colleagues. What is also a fight that my colleagues and I share is student loan debt.

Obtaining my undergraduate and graduate degrees has left me with a staggering \$110k+ student loan bill. Many of my colleagues share a similar financial burden. This financial burden has left many qualified and amazing potential therapists avoiding the field. This avoidance has left a state and nationwide shortage of providers. Waitlists for therapy in Maine are months long, with mine personally at over five months long.

My colleagues and I need help. The state needs help and more providers. The people you serve need help. Please help us by supporting the amending of LD 632.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Lisa Dezso, LCSW, LADC, CCS