

Committee on Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business
c/o Legislative Information Office
Cross Building, Room 206
100 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

February 28, 2023

Re: LD 632 An Act to Amend the Social Work Education Loan Repayment Program

Dear Senators, Representatives, and members of the Committee on Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business,

My name is Mary Moynihan and I reside in Old Town, Maine. I am writing to ask you to support LD 632 An Act to Amend the Social Work Education Loan Repayment Program.

In 2016 I moved to Maine from Oregon with the intention of pursuing higher education and entering into a sustainable profession and career. In 2019 I earned a Master of Social Work (MSW) and have since worked with Northern Light Acadia Hospital as a Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW). Serving an underprivileged population, I also identify as an underprivileged person who is breaking through the barriers and suffering that arises from prolonged exposure to childhood and adolescent trauma. The ability to break through these barriers is shaped by a variety of factors, one being the incentives made available to those striving to transform not only their own lives, but those that we serve and the communities we call home. Actions that financially incentivize building a necessary workforce and keeping people in Maine are vital to the sustainability of our state's health. The following are two programs successful in recruiting and retaining professional social workers needed in underserved areas and those adversely affected by behavioral health crises including drug overdose:

- Maine's Educational Opportunity Tax Credit (EOTC)
- Health Resources and Service Administration's National Health Service Corps Loan Repayment Program

These financial incentives have allowed me to climb above the federal poverty level, to donate back into my community, and to continue to advocate for the needs of my neighbors. They have improved my quality of life and allowed a sense of safety and stability that I was not privileged to for the first decade of my life. And although I still have \$40,000 in federal loans, I am confident that programs like the Social Work Education Loan Repayment Program make it possible to attract and retain essential social work professionals to meet the growing and evolving needs of Maine's citizens and future success.

Please support LD 632 An Act to Amend the Social Work Education Loan Repayment Program.

Thank you for your time,

Mary Moynihan
15 Sewall Drive
Old Town, ME 04468



Mary Moynihan
Old Town
LD 632

In the chance the attached pdf does not open:

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