

Committee on Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business

Senator Chip Curry

Representative Tiffany Roberts

Thursday March 20th, 2023

**Support for: LD 623 "An Act to Amend the Social Work Education Loan Repayment Program"**

Committee on Innovation Development, Economic Advancement and Business, Senator Chip Curry, and Representative Tiffany Roberts, I am writing in support of funding LD 623, "An Act Amend the Social Work Education Loan Repayment Program "

My name is Hannah McBride and I am from Plymouth Massachusetts, and now live in Biddeford, ME as I attend University of New England. I am a junior in the BSW undergraduate program. I am hoping to attend graduate school following my graduation in May 2024.

I am writing in support of LD 632, because it would allow me to attend graduate school in Maine and continue to live and work in Maine as a licensed social worker. This bill being funded would impact my life for the better because it would allow me to continue my education with the reduction of loans I would have to pay, and remove major financial stress from my life. This bill would allow me to focus all of my energy toward my education and pursuing Social Work to better the wellbeing and quality of communities and individual lives of Maine residents. I want to use my education to benefit the people of my community and help inspire education of social justice. My dream is to work with children and support their progression through difficult experiences/trauma as I am inspired by children's resilience.

I am driven to be the best social worker I can be, and with the funding of LD 632, young, soon to be social workers like myself will be able to focus on, and further their education to use that knowledge and help improve Maine overall wellbeing and happiness. I believe that social workers are capable of amazing things and this opportunity would allow social workers to thrive and create amazing improvements in social justice, along with the individual lives of Maine citizens.

I hope that based on the information provided throughout the testimony, LD 632 will be funded to support social workers and our futures. Thank you for allowing me to express my thoughts, Committee on Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business, Senator Chip Curry, and Representative Tiffany Robert. If you have any questions, please contact me.

**Hannah McBride, [hmcbride@une](mailto:hmcbride@une)**