

NASW Maine ACTION ALERT

The Social Work Education Loan Repayment Bill (LD 632, Lydia Crafts, Representative, Damariscotta) to revamp and finally fund the current state program was printed last week, with a public hearing scheduled next Tuesday. NASW Maine is asking you to

1. Before 2/28: Write a one-page testimonial as to the amount and impact of your debt and
2. This week: Call or email your legislator who is an IDEA committee member to tell them about the bill and ask for their support (see table below).

Many voices are needed to help legislators know the extent and depth of this issue. Please send a copy of your testimony to your state Senator and Representative PARTICULARLY if they are on the Appropriations or the Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business (IDEA) Committee. The bill proposes to:

- increase the number of awards (from 3-100/year) from the current program,
- increase the award amount (from \$2,000 total to \$5,000/year over four years),
- broaden eligibility to include those in private practice who provide a portion of care to MaineCare clients, and
- fully fund the program.

Talking points and the NASW Maine Legislative priorities for this legislative session can be found at: <https://naswme.socialworkers.org/Advocacy/Policy-Issues>.

Legislators want to hear your story. We may have an informal coaching session the evening of February 27th, if there is interest. Specifics are outlined below.

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

http://www.mainelegislature.org/legis/bills/display_ps.asp?id=632&PID=1456&snum=131&sec3

- The public hearing has been set for Tuesday, 2/28 at 1PM in the IDEA Committee
- For instructions and examples of written testimony:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1pPVQy1c7GUV1HexsKCLQBf3Gi4_4A_Qm?usp=sharing

- To submit testimony: <https://legislature.maine.gov/committee/#Committees/IDEA>

Please let me know if you plan to testify, how you are able to testify (written, oral, zoom, or in person), and if you have interest in attending a coaching session the night before the hearing. Thank you, all!

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Chair, NASW Maine Policy Committee
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IDEA Committee Members

Legislator	District	Cell/ Home Phone	Committee Email site https://legislature.maine.gov/committee/#Committees/IDEA
Senator Chip Curry - Chair	Waldo County (11)	323-9976	Chip.Curry@Legislature.Maine.gov
Senator Stacey Guerin	Penobscot County (4)	249-0472	Stacey.Guerin@Legislature.Maine.gov
Senator Joseph Rafferty	York (34)	590-9902	Joseph.Rafferty@.... (as above)
Rep. Tiffany Roberts - Chair	So, Berwick (149)	210-3287	Tiffany.Roberts@....
Rep. Amanda Collamore	Pittsfield (68)	679-7305	Amanda.Collamore@...
Rep. Ed Crockett	Portland (112)	797-8371	Edward.Crockett@...
Rep. Lucas Lanigan	Sanford (141)	351-5383	Lucas.Lanigan@...
Rep. Raegan LaRochelle	Augusta (59)	624-2668	Raegan.LaRochelle@...
Rep. Caleb Ness	Fryeburg (82)	890-3870	Caleb.Ness@...
Rep. Dan Sayre	Kennebunk (135)	613-6776	Daniel.Sayre@...
Rep. Katrina Smith	Palermo (62)	230-9583	Katrina.Smith@...
Rep. Mark Walker	Naples (84)	272-2728	Mark.Walker@
Rep. Bruce White	Waterville (65)	518-8265	Bruce.White@...