



February 25, 2019

Senator Rebecca Millett, Chair  
Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs  
100 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333

**RE: LD 247 An Act To Increase the Amount of Time School Counselors and Social Workers Spend Providing Students Direct and Indirect Counseling**

Dear Senator Millett and Committee Members;

My name is Lynn Stanley and I am the Interim Executive Director for the National Association of Social Workers, Maine Chapter. I am writing in support of LD 247. Please accept this letter of testimony as I cannot be in attendance at the public hearing.

Social workers should have the ability to spend the majority of their work time with and working on the behalf of students. However, sometimes social workers are asked to sit on community task forces to address issues. For example, if a school social worker is also the homelessness liaison, their knowledge and expertise might be sought as a community looks to combat or address the issues of homelessness. This work at a macro level is an important component of social work and should be viewed as a benefit to students, though may not fit into the category of direct or indirect service. It would be unfortunate to lose the voices of those with direct knowledge of serious social issues.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Respectfully submitted,

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