



March 25, 2019

Senator Heather Sanborn
Representative Denise Tepler
Maine State Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services
Legislative Information Office
100 State House Station
Augusta ME 04333

Re: LD 1025- An Act To Prohibit the Provision of Conversion Therapy to Minors by Certain Licensed Professionals

To the Chairmen and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the National Association of Social Workers Maine Chapter, I am writing to express support for LD 1025.

Conversion therapy has been discredited and highly criticized by all major medical, psychiatric, psychological and professional mental health organizations, including the National Association of Social Workers. Data demonstrates that conversion therapy negatively impacts the mental health and self-esteem of the individual.

NASW ME strongly asserts its stance against therapies and treatments designed to change sexual orientation or gender identity and against referring clients to practitioners or programs that claim to do so.

This legislation protects Maine's LGBTQA+ youth against adults who would attempt to change their sexual orientation or gender identity using harmful, ineffective methods that could have long-lasting harm on the individual.

It is our hope that the passing of LD 1025 will bring some vindication and reconciliation to the many young people who have been traumatized by this ineffective and unethical practice.

Thank you for the opportunity to voice our support.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Stanley, LICSW
Interim Executive Director
NASW ME