

## NASW ME ACTION ALERT

Get to know your state legislators! Our state legislators are not in session. Many are running for re-election. This is a great time for social workers to contact them, thank them for their service, and ask for their support on priority issues. Call them and consider attending one of their community events, all of which are virtual at this time. The recent Maine State Legislature adjourned *sine die* on March 17th, 2020, with \$192 million and many of our priority bills still on the table. They are planning to meet in a special session before the year is out. We urge you to ask for their support for:

LD 1946: Representative McCreight's *Act To Improve Access to Mental and Behavioral Health Care by Providing Care in Clinical Reproductive and Sexual Health Care Settings*. The NASW Maine Policy Committee was very active on this, which ended up being a divided report-carried over in the Health and Human Services committee, providing testimony and collaborating with Representative McCreight and Planned Parenthood on clinical nuances and supporting evidence.

LD 1937: Representative Gramlich's *Act To Provide Timely Access to Behavioral Health Services for Maine Children and To Address Trauma and the Impacts of the Opioid Crisis*. Lynn submitted NASW testimony at hearing. This was enacted in the house and has been carried over on the Special Appropriations Table.

Before talking to your legislators, think about how the above pieces of legislation affect your clients and community. Whether or not your legislators are on the committee, ask them what they know about these two bills. Use your expertise and stories to help them understand the need for one or both pieces of legislation. If they are not on the exact committee, ask them to urge their colleagues to support these important bills for Maine.

For more information on:

LD 1946: <https://legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?ID=280075702>

LD 1937: <https://legislature.maine.gov/LawMakerWeb/summary.asp?ID=280075695>

Legislative Committee members: <http://legislature.maine.gov/committee/#Committees>

If you would like our evidence document that supports behavioral health integration into the sexual and reproductive health settings or more information about the NASW Maine Policy Committee, contact Julie Schirmer, LCSW at [naswmechaptervp@gmail.com](mailto:naswmechaptervp@gmail.com).