

Good Morning Chairman Gerzofsky, Chairman Dion, and other honorable members of the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee.

My name is Susan Lamb, I am the Executive Director of the Maine Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers and I live in Kennebunkport.

The Maine Chapter of NASW is here today to support LD 661, An Act to Prohibit Sale or Possession of Synthetic Cannabinoids. We support this proposed law because we believe that all of the of the variations and permutations of illegal drugs and abuse of prescription medications by persons who do not hold the prescriptions that have the same impact on the brain's receptors should trigger the same treatment under our criminal laws.

Having staked that ground and, knowing that the cost of incarcerating someone in Maine's jails and prisons 25 years ago (\$35K to \$50K per prisoner, per year) we also would encourage this committee to review our current laws regarding sentencing for drug possession and sale. We want our sentencing laws and the commensurate impact on prisoner rehabilitation and employment opportunities to be correctly balanced with the crimes committed.

Thank you and I'd be happy to answer any questions.