April 25, 2023

To Whom It May Concern:

It was without reservation and extremely high regard that I write this recommendation letter for Jennifer Malvin. I have known Jenna for many years as we first met when she was a student in our BSW Program at the University of Maine. I had the privilege of having her in my class for her senior field placement.

During that academic year, I got to see Jenna’s significant growth personally and professionally. Jenna consistently demonstrated strong social work skills including active listening, sound judgment, critical thinking, advocacy, social justice, compassion and empathy. Jenna utilized her self-awareness to be cognizant of her biases as they arose in her field placement. She engaged with her peers in a supportive manner, often offering problem solving ideas and she was a role model for her peers.

Perhaps Jenna’s greatest strength is her voice for social justice and advocacy. She has one of the strongest voices I know which she uses with knowledge, empathy and heart. She consistently adheres to the Code of Ethics in her personal and professional life. She has a strong moral compass.

I have now had the privilege of having Jenna in two of my MSW courses. She was a student in my bridge course as she transitioned into our MSW Program. She continued where she left off as an undergraduate student and excelled in the classroom. She is a current student in my Advanced Practice Class working with Families and Groups. Jenna has again impressed me with her intelligence, her ability to integrate knowledge into practice while maintaining her strongest skills. She treats everyone with dignity and respect and values her professional and peer relationships. I see Jenna making systemic changes over time as she advocates for the oppressed and vulnerable members of our society.

Jenna is an exceptional person and social worker. It has been my privilege to know her and teach her over the years. In many ways, she was a teacher for me. I have no doubt that whatever she does professionally or wherever she lands she will thrive.

Very Truly Yours:

Kelly Jaksa, LCSW

Faculty/BSW Coordinator

University of Maine