

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD

TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-THREE

**JOINT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING FEBRUARY 2023 AS TEEN
DATING VIOLENCE AWARENESS AND PREVENTION MONTH**

WHEREAS, teen dating violence takes many forms, including physical or sexual assault, stalking, coercive and controlling behavior, emotional abuse, harassment and exploitation, and can occur in person, online or through various forms of technology; and

WHEREAS, research by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention shows that more than 8% of high school students in the United States reported experiencing physical or sexual dating violence over the course of a one-year period, with young women and LGBTQI+ youth reporting the highest rates; and

WHEREAS, young people who are survivors of teen dating violence can suffer from depression, substance use disorder, risk of suicide, eating disorders, poor academic outcomes, unintended pregnancy and other struggles; and

WHEREAS, the effects of teen dating violence are compounded for girls and young women of color, who are less often recognized as survivors of dating and sexual violence and face additional barriers to seeking help; and

WHEREAS, the development of tools to help teens stay safe online and when using electronic devices; help colleges and universities respond effectively to dating violence, sexual assault, stalking and other forms of abuse; and provide resources and training programs that prevent abuse and promote healthy relationships is vital to providing young people with every chance to live the fulfilling and productive lives they deserve; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That We, the Members of the One Hundred and Thirty-first Legislature now assembled in the First Regular Session, on behalf of the people we represent, take this opportunity to recognize February 2023 as Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month and recommit ourselves to ensuring our society is one in which all young people can live fulfilling and productive lives free of violence and fear.