

**STATE OF MAINE**

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**IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD**

**TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-THREE**

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**JOINT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING APRIL 3, 2023 TO APRIL 9,  
2023 AS NATIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH WEEK**

**WHEREAS**, approximately 29 million people still lack health insurance in the United States, and the uninsured are less likely to receive preventive care and less likely to seek care as quickly when they are sick, resulting in higher costs when they do seek treatment; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2014, health care spending represented 17.5% of the nation's gross domestic product, and it is expected to reach 20.1% by 2025; and

**WHEREAS**, rising health care costs contribute to the nation's federal deficit and reduce the ability to spend in other important areas including education, housing and economic development; and

**WHEREAS**, the United States spends far more on medical care than any other industrialized nation, but is ranked 26 out of 43 in terms of life expectancy, and the overall United States death rate has increased, leading to a drop in overall life expectancy for the first time since 1993, particularly among people younger than 65; and

**WHEREAS**, only 3% of the nation's health care spending is focused on prevention and public health, when chronic conditions, which are the most common, costly and preventable of all health problems, account for 86% of the nation's health care costs; and

**WHEREAS**, in the United States, 7 in 10 deaths are related to chronic diseases such as obesity, diabetes, high blood pressure, heart disease and cancer, which are largely preventable, and 90% of health care dollars are spent treating such diseases, with only 3 cents of each health care dollar spent in the United States going toward prevention; and

**WHEREAS**, health inequities related to income and access to coverage exist across demographic lines, but African Americans of all ages are more than twice as likely to die from diabetes than white persons, and Hispanic high school students are 80% more likely to have attempted suicide than non-Hispanic white high school students; and

**WHEREAS**, March 23, 2023 marked the 13th anniversary of the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, and during open enrollment for 2023, nearly 16,400,000 consumers selected or were automatically re-enrolled in health insurance coverage; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED:** That We, the Members of the One Hundred and Thirty-first Legislature now assembled in the First Special Session, on behalf of the people we represent, take this opportunity to recognize April 3, 2023 to April 9, 2023 as National Public Health Week, and to express our support for expanding health care coverage and lowering health care costs for Maine families.