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## **Joint Resolution Recognizing January 31, 2020 as EITC Awareness Day**

**WHEREAS**, in order to promote the federal and Maine state earned income tax credit, which enhances family household budgets, we recognize January 31, 2020 as EITC Awareness Day; and

**WHEREAS**, 4 of 5 people eligible for the credit claim it, which demonstrates the importance of raising awareness of this credit and urging individuals to find out if they qualify for it; and

**WHEREAS**, throughout the State, IRS-certified volunteer tax preparers who are members of CASH Maine, a collaboration of 10 statewide coalitions including 50 nonprofit and for-profit partners, and AARP Foundation Tax-Aide provide free federal and state tax preparation; and

**WHEREAS**, since 2003, CASH Maine has also educated hard-working families and individuals about programs in the community that can increase their income, reduce debt and build savings; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2019, these volunteers helped Maine residents save more than \$3,800,000 in tax filing fees and claim nearly \$4,200,000 in earned income tax credits, returning over \$20,600,000 to Maine residents in federal income tax refunds; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED:** That We, the Members of the One Hundred and Twenty-ninth Legislature now assembled in the Second Regular Session, on behalf of the people we represent, take this opportunity to recognize January 31, 2020 as EITC Awareness Day; and be it further

**RESOLVED:** That we send our appreciation to all the volunteers who participate in EITC Awareness Day for the benefit of Maine citizens and we urge participation in this worthy cause.