

STATE OF MAINE

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IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD

TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-FIVE

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**JOINT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING MARCH 6, 2025 AS BLACK  
BALLOON DAY**

**WHEREAS**, substance use disorder and the overdose crisis continue to devastate communities across Maine, resulting in the tragic loss of 490 lives in 2024 alone, leaving families, friends and communities in mourning; and

**WHEREAS**, Black Balloon Day, observed annually on March 6th, serves as an international day of remembrance to honor those lost to overdose and to acknowledge the profound impact of substance use disorder on individuals, families and society; and

**WHEREAS**, each life lost represents a parent, child, sibling, friend or neighbor whose full potential was never realized because of the disease of addiction; and

**WHEREAS**, the overdose crisis affects people of all backgrounds and communities, and there is an urgent need for increased awareness, prevention, treatment, harm reduction and recovery support services; and

**WHEREAS**, stigma remains a significant barrier to seeking and receiving care, and it is our collective responsibility to foster compassion, understanding and evidence-based approaches to substance use disorder; and

**WHEREAS**, families and advocates throughout Maine continue to share their stories, fight for better policies and work to ensure that no more lives are lost to preventable overdoses; and

**WHEREAS**, Black Balloon Day provides an opportunity for individuals and organizations to come together in remembrance and in solidarity, encouraging conversation and action to address this ongoing public health crisis; and

**WHEREAS**, the Legislature recognizes the urgency of addressing the overdose epidemic through continued policy efforts, funding for prevention and treatment programs and community-driven solutions; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED:** That We, the Members of the One Hundred and Thirty-second Legislature now assembled in the First Regular Session, pause in our deliberations to recognize Black Balloon Day, honor the 490 lives lost to overdose in Maine in 2024 and extend our deepest sympathies to the families and loved ones affected by this crisis; and be it further

**RESOLVED:** That we reaffirm our commitment to addressing substance use disorder and supporting those in recovery with compassion, urgency and dedication.