

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD

TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-FIVE

**JOINT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING APRIL 6, 2025 TO APRIL
12, 2025 AS NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK**

WHEREAS, across the State, Maine's school, academic, special and public libraries are cornerstones in their communities, connecting the public to information and resources critical to advancing education, employment, entrepreneurship and civic engagement; and

WHEREAS, the library ecosystem in Maine includes over 600 school libraries in 174 districts and 150 certified school librarians serving the State's students; 33 academic libraries, including those of the University of Maine System, community colleges and private 4-year institutions; special libraries, including government, nonprofit, correctional institution and health science libraries; and 257 public libraries; and

WHEREAS, each year Maine libraries welcome over 3,000,000 visitors who use library services to attend enrichment programs, receive a state park pass and snowshoes, book space for community meetings, receive one-on-one tutoring and practice for general education development tests, manage a small business or find a job, use a computer and build digital skills, learn English, apply for Federal Emergency Management Agency benefits, make a telehealth appointment and check out books; and

WHEREAS, research shows that school libraries and library staff positively affect student achievement, transform learning and support the development of all literacy skills while providing safe spaces for children to learn and grow; and

WHEREAS, academic libraries are essential to higher education, supporting student success, faculty research and lifelong learning by providing access to scholarly resources, research assistance and information literacy instruction; and

WHEREAS, Maine's libraries provide a safe place during severe weather events when they serve as heating and cooling centers and offer a place of security for families in need, including through the provision of free summer meals through the United States Department of Agriculture Summer Food Service Program or the management of a community pantry; and

WHEREAS, Maine's libraries ensure Maine's children are ready to learn when they enter school and welcome new Mainers and asylum seekers, connecting them to services to help them relocate successfully to their adopted state; and

WHEREAS, Maine's libraries provide invaluable social connections for older adults, contributing to their healthy aging and their ability to age in place; and

WHEREAS, Maine's public libraries provide free wireless Internet connection, laptops and tablets, computer classes and access to robust digital resources, often surpassing what is available in many residents' homes; and

WHEREAS, using their library cards, Mainers have access to e-books and audiobooks, streaming videos, local and national newspapers and digital resources for learning that teach

subjects such as how to fix a car, update professional certifications and research homework assignments; and

WHEREAS, eligible Maine residents have access to Braille and audio materials and specially formatted digital books, and Mainers who are not served by a local library have access to books by mail via the United States Postal Service; and

WHEREAS, National Library Week is a time to recognize the importance of these institutions and acknowledge their contributions to our State, from the smallest island communities to our urban centers; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That We, the Members of the One Hundred and Thirty-second Legislature now assembled in the First Special Session, on behalf of the people we represent, take this opportunity to recognize April 6, 2025 to April 12, 2025 as National Library Week and to express our appreciation and gratitude to libraries and their support staff.