

**STATE OF MAINE**

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**IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD**

**TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-THREE**

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**JOINT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING MAY 2023 AS MENTAL  
HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH**

**WHEREAS**, the mental health and well-being of all children, youth, adults and families in the State are of fundamental importance to the Legislature; and

**WHEREAS**, since 1999, the national suicide rate has increased more than 30%, with more than 10 million individuals experiencing suicidal thoughts and 1.4 million individuals attempting suicide annually in the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, approximately 129 individuals die by suicide in the United States each day; and

**WHEREAS**, suicide, opioid misuse and addiction and children's mental health issues are areas of concern in the State; and

**WHEREAS**, there are approximately 65,000 adults in the State who are living with a serious mental illness, including, but not limited to, bipolar disorder, severe depression and schizophrenia, and 27.2% of the children in the State have a mental illness, the highest rate of any state in the nation; and

**WHEREAS**, the effective treatment of mental health conditions is critical to reducing the number of individuals and families who find themselves in mental health crises, to breaking individual and generational cycles of mental illness and to promoting healing; and

**WHEREAS**, recovery from a mental illness requires access to professional services and involves families and caregivers as allies in recovery and as critical members of the care delivery team; and

**WHEREAS**, maintaining an open dialogue regarding mental health conditions encourages individuals struggling with mental illness to seek help and is an essential component to fighting the stigma associated with mental illness; 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 May 2023 as Mental Health Awareness Month in order to raise awareness of mental health conditions and services and to break the stigma surrounding mental illness in the State.