

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD

TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-THREE

**JOINT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING MAY 5, 2023 AS MISSING
AND MURDERED INDIGENOUS PERSONS AWARENESS DAY**

WHEREAS, there are thousands of unsolved cases of missing and murdered Native Americans, including high case rates involving women and girls, including transgender women and girls; and

WHEREAS, the number of these cases is disproportionately high compared to cases among the population of the United States as a whole; and

WHEREAS, failure to demonstrate the necessary commitment to addressing and preventing this ongoing tragedy fails to honor the dignity and humanity of each person who goes missing or is murdered; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to work with tribal nations to increase coordination among state and tribal entities to investigate and resolve these cases and ensure accountability; and

WHEREAS, it is also necessary to address the underlying causes of these cases, including sexual violence, human trafficking, domestic violence, violent crime, systemic racism, economic disparities and substance use and addiction, as well as to put in place a support system to bridge the gap for families in crisis and provide opportunities for healing through community-driven approaches; and

WHEREAS, the challenges in tribal communities are best met by solutions that are informed and shaped by tribal leaders and tribal governments; and

WHEREAS, an effective community response plan requires critical partnerships within and timely response from the community, tribal law enforcement and local, state and federal law enforcement; 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 5, 2023 as Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons Awareness Day in order to remember the indigenous people we have lost and commit to working to ensure that any incident of a missing or murdered person is met with swift and effective action.