

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD

TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-ONE

**JOINT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING MAY 5, 2021 AS
NATIONAL DAY OF AWARENESS FOR MISSING AND
MURDERED NATIVE WOMEN AND GIRLS**

WHEREAS, according to a study commissioned by the federal Department of Justice, in some tribal communities Native American women face murder rates that are more than 10 times the national average; and

WHEREAS, according to the most recently available data from the federal Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, in 2015 homicide ranged from the 2nd to the 7th leading cause of death for Native American and Alaska Native females between 1 and 39 years of age and remained a leading cause of death for most Native American and Alaska Native females between 40 and 64 years of age; and

WHEREAS, little data exists on the number of missing Native American and Alaska Native women and girls in the United States; and

WHEREAS, challenges in collecting and tracking data prevent a full understanding of the scope of the crisis of missing and murdered native women and girls; and

WHEREAS, the United States Congress has passed "Savanna's Act," directing the federal Department of Justice to review, revise and develop law enforcement and justice protocols to address missing or murdered Native Americans; and

WHEREAS, over 175 tribal, state, regional and national organizations have joined with the National Indigenous Women's Resource Center in support of the resolution to create a National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Native Women and Girls; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature and Wabanaki tribes continue to positively develop their relationship; and

WHEREAS, the National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls was first recognized by the members of the Legislature in 2019; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That We, the Members of the One Hundred and Thirtieth Legislature now assembled in the First Special Session, on behalf of the people we represent, take this opportunity to recognize May 5, 2021 as National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Native Women and Girls and to recognize the importance of changes to address the crisis and to increase safety for Native American and Alaska Native women and girls.