

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD

TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-THREE

**JOINT RESOLUTION CONDEMNING THE WRONGFUL
IMPRISONMENT OF WALL STREET JOURNAL REPORTER
EVAN GERSHKOVICH**

WHEREAS, Wall Street Journal reporter, Bowdoin College alumnus and United States citizen Evan Gershkovich while reporting in Russia was taken into custody on March 29, 2023 in Yekaterinburg and wrongly accused of spying by the Russian government; and

WHEREAS, the White House declared on April 10th that Mr. Gershkovich is being "wrongfully detained," a designation signaling that the United States will devote more resources to the case and that the United States Department of State will lead the effort to free him; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Gershkovich has become the first American journalist to be imprisoned by Russia on fraudulent espionage charges since the Cold War; and

WHEREAS, Russia recently in a closed-door hearing extended the arrest of Mr. Gershkovich by 3 months; and

WHEREAS, the Russian government has not detailed what, if any, evidence has been gathered to support the espionage charges; 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 condemn the wrongful imprisonment of Evan Gershkovich by the Russian government and to declare our hope that he will be returned safely to his family in America and will be able to continue his work as a journalist.