

STATE OF MAINE

**IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-THREE**

**JOINT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING JUNE 20, 2023 AS WORLD
REFUGEE DAY IN MAINE**

WHEREAS, World Refugee Day was launched by the United Nations in 2001 to honor the bravery, strength and determination of refugees around the world who have been forced to flee their home countries under threat of conflict, violence, persecution and natural disaster; and

WHEREAS, refugees in communities across the welcoming state of Maine resettle in the hope of finding peace and safety for themselves and their families; and

WHEREAS, for over 45 years, refugees from diverse social, cultural, racial, ethnic and religious backgrounds with a variety of skills, abilities and experiences have resettled in Maine and have been woven into the fabric of Maine's vibrant cultural tapestry; and

WHEREAS, refugee-led organizations in Maine share the priority of our State to strengthen communities by engaging with and improving the lives of all Maine people through fair and equitable access to education, health care and employment; and

WHEREAS, refugee and immigrant-owned businesses are important contributors to the economic and social vitality of communities across our State, supporting local economies and employing local people; and

WHEREAS, Maine celebrates the refugee communities throughout our State that have served on the front lines of the State's response to the COVID-19 pandemic, ensuring our safety during uncertainty and contributing to our strong and successful recovery; 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 June 20, 2023 as World Refugee Day in Maine and the positive impact and enduring contributions of refugee communities in the State.