

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD

TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-SIX

**JOINT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING JANUARY 2026 AS
HUMAN TRAFFICKING PREVENTION MONTH**

WHEREAS, human trafficking is a public health issue and a crime that harms the health and well-being of individuals, families and communities, often across generations; and

WHEREAS, twenty-five years after passage of the federal Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000, an estimated 27,600,000 people are subjected to human trafficking globally, with cases reported in every United States state and territory; and

WHEREAS, human trafficking can happen to anyone, but certain populations are at greater risk, including people affected by abuse, violence, poverty, unstable living situations or social disconnection; and

WHEREAS, human trafficking is connected to many other forms of violence and exploitation and often shares common risk factors such as lack of resources and unsafe environments; and

WHEREAS, services provided to those affected by human trafficking must be trauma-informed and responsive to individual needs; and

WHEREAS, there is a need to understand how human trafficking relates to other forms of violence and how we can prevent it by strengthening protective factors at the individual, relational, community and societal levels; and

WHEREAS, strengthening communities requires collective action to reduce the conditions that contribute to exploitation, build resilience and create environments where people are protected from human trafficking and other forms of violence; and

WHEREAS, successful response to human trafficking requires a coordinated, community-wide effort that includes collaboration across sectors and with those who have experienced human trafficking firsthand to ensure that services and programs are effective and meet the needs of all survivors; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That We, the Members of the One Hundred and Thirty-second Legislature now assembled in the Second Regular Session, on behalf of the people we represent, take this opportunity to recognize January 2026 as Human Trafficking Prevention Month and to express our support for increasing awareness of and improving education on human trafficking, making resources available for individuals and communities affected by human trafficking and building diverse public-private partnerships to support a more coordinated, comprehensive response to prevent and combat human trafficking.