

**STATE OF MAINE**

---

**IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD**

**TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-SIX**

---

**JOINT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING JANUARY 2026 AS  
STALKING AWARENESS MONTH**

**WHEREAS**, approximately one in 3 women and one in 6 men in the United States, at some point during their lifetimes, have experienced stalking victimization, causing them to feel very fearful, threatened or concerned for their own safety or the safety of others; and

**WHEREAS**, it is estimated that each year over 13,400,000 individuals in the United States report that they have been victims of stalking; and

**WHEREAS**, stalking affects victims of every race, age, culture, gender, sexual orientation, physical and mental ability and economic status; and

**WHEREAS**, individuals between 18 and 24 years old experience the highest rates of stalking victimization, and a majority of stalking victims report their victimization first occurred before the age of 25; and

**WHEREAS**, more than 80% of victims of stalking report that they have been stalked by a current or former intimate partner or an acquaintance; and

**WHEREAS**, some 80% of stalking victims report being stalked with technology, such as phone calls, text messages, social media platforms, internet posts, emails and electronic tracking, and victims of technology-facilitated stalking often report higher fear than victims who experience in-person stalking and are equally concerned for their safety; and

**WHEREAS**, the prevalence of anxiety, insomnia, social dysfunction and severe depression is much higher among victims of stalking than among the general population; and

**WHEREAS**, nearly 70% of female stalking victims and 80% of male stalking victims are threatened with physical harm by stalkers; and

**WHEREAS**, stalking is a risk factor for intimate partner homicide, and 3 in 4 female victims of intimate partner homicide were stalked by their killers during the year preceding the homicide; and

**WHEREAS**, over 10% of victims of stalking report having been stalked for 5 or more years, and 2 in 3 stalkers pursue their victims at least once a week; and

**WHEREAS**, many victims of stalking are forced to take drastic measures to protect themselves, including relocating, changing jobs or obtaining protection orders; and

**WHEREAS**, many victims of stalking do not report stalking to the police or contact a victim service provider, shelter or hotline; and

**WHEREAS**, stalking is a crime under federal law, the laws of all 50 states, the District of Columbia and the territories of the United States and the Uniform Code of Military Justice; and

**WHEREAS**, national organizations, local victim service organizations, college and university campuses, prosecutors' offices and police departments stand ready to assist victims

of stalking and are working diligently to develop effective and innovative responses to stalking, including online stalking; and

**WHEREAS,** there is a need to improve the response of the criminal justice system to stalking through more aggressive investigation and prosecution and a need to increase the availability of victim services across the United States, including programs tailored to meet the needs of victims of stalking; and

**WHEREAS,** January 2026 marks the 22nd anniversary of the first National Stalking Awareness Month, which provides an opportunity to educate the people of the United States about stalking; 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 Stalking Awareness Month and applaud the efforts of service providers, police departments, prosecutors' offices, national and community organizations, colleges and universities and private sector entities that combat stalking, support victims and bring awareness to this crime, and we encourage policymakers, criminal justice officials, victim service and human service agencies, institutions of higher education and nonprofit organizations to increase awareness of stalking and continue to support the availability of services for victims of stalking.