

**STATE OF MAINE**

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

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**JOINT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING APRIL 2022 AS SEXUAL  
ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH**

**WHEREAS**, sexual violence affects women, children and men of all racial, cultural and economic backgrounds; and

**WHEREAS**, in addition to the immediate physical and emotional costs, sexual violence may also have associated consequences of post-traumatic stress disorder, substance abuse, depression, eating disorders, homelessness and suicide; and

**WHEREAS**, sexual violence can be devastating not only for the victim, but also for the family, friends and community of the victim; and

**WHEREAS**, Maine communities bear the substantial fiscal costs related to sexual violence, such as lost work time and increased health care costs, thereby increasing the need for prevention and awareness; and

**WHEREAS**, no one person, organization, agency or community can eliminate sexual violence on its own, but we can work together to educate our entire population about how we can all prevent sexual violence and support victims and their communities; and

**WHEREAS**, sexual harassment, assault and abuse happen in all communities, including online spaces, and there is a need to create online spaces that are built on the foundational values of practicing consent, keeping children safe and supporting survivors; and

**WHEREAS**, Sexual Assault Awareness Month is a time to draw attention to the prevalence of sexual assault and provides an excellent opportunity for citizens of Maine to learn more about preventing sexual violence; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED:** That We, the Members of the One Hundred and Thirtieth Legislature now assembled in the Second Regular Session, on behalf of the people we represent, take this opportunity to recognize April 2022 as Sexual Assault Awareness Month and to express our support for and encouragement of all those affected by sexual violence; and be it further

**RESOLVED:** That suitable copies of this resolution, duly authenticated by the Secretary of State, be transmitted to the Maine Coalition Against Sexual Assault as a token of our respect and support.