

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD

TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-THREE

**JOINT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING MAY 2023 AS MAINE
TREATMENT AND RECOVERY COURT MONTH**

WHEREAS, treatment and recovery courts nationwide are the cornerstone of justice reform and are recognized as the most successful justice system intervention in our nation's history; and

WHEREAS, Maine treatment and recovery courts have been restoring lives and families and increasing public health and safety for more than 2 decades; and

WHEREAS, Maine now has 14 treatment and recovery courts, including 8 drug treatment and recovery courts, formerly known as adult drug treatment courts, 2 veterans treatment courts, 3 family recovery courts and one co-occurring disorder court; and

WHEREAS, Maine treatment and recovery courts have served more than 2,000 individuals, indirectly benefiting tens of thousands of Maine families, employers and communities; and

WHEREAS, treatment and recovery courts have substantially lowered the conviction recidivism rate of graduates to 6% compared to 41% of people with comparable characteristics and criminal records who did not attend a treatment and recovery court; and

WHEREAS, Maine treatment and recovery courts significantly improve substance use disorder treatment outcomes and substantially reduce addiction and related crime and do so at less expense than any other criminal justice strategy in Maine's history; and

WHEREAS, Maine treatment and recovery courts save an average of \$16,232 for every individual served while in the treatment court, significantly more than the national average of \$6,000 per individual; and

WHEREAS, Maine treatment and recovery courts improve education, employment, housing and financial stability, promote family reunification, reduce foster care placements and increase the rate of mothers delivering babies who are fully drug free; and

WHEREAS, Maine treatment and recovery courts facilitate community-wide partnerships, bridging public safety and public health; and

WHEREAS, the success of treatment and recovery courts is the result of dedicated collaborative efforts and partnership of the following: the Judicial Branch, Maine Pretrial Services, Inc., the Attorney General and District Attorneys, the Maine Commission on Indigent Legal Services, the Department of Corrections, various county sheriff's offices, the Department of Health and Human Services, the Governor's Director of Opioid Response, Maine Behavioral Healthcare, Aroostook Mental Health Services, Inc., Wellspring, Inc., Recovery Connections of Maine, the Community Caring Collaborative and the Co-Occurring Collaborative Serving Maine, as well as a multitude of recovery and sober living homes, independent treatment providers and physicians and recovery support organizations; 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 designate May 2023 as Maine Treatment and Recovery Court Month in recognition of the efforts of all professionals and participants who make our treatment and recovery courts work, and of the significant contribution our treatment and recovery courts have made and continue to make in the fight against substance use disorder, in helping our citizens in their recovery and in restoring hope.