

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD

TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-FIVE

**JOINT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING MAY 2025 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's treatment and recovery courts have been restoring lives and families and increasing public health and safety for almost 3 decades; and

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

WHEREAS, Maine's treatment and recovery courts have served more than 2,800 individuals, indirectly impacting thousands of Maine families, employers and communities; and

WHEREAS, the most recent statewide assessment has shown that Maine's 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 histories who did not participate in a treatment and recovery court program; and

WHEREAS, according to All Rise, 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, according to the statewide assessment, Maine's treatment and recovery courts save an average of \$16,232 in incarceration and community corrections costs for every individual served, permitting Maine to boast savings significantly more than the national average of \$6,000 per individual; and

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

WHEREAS, the success of Maine's treatment and recovery courts is the result of dedicated, collaborative efforts and partnerships with many state departments and organizations, including the Maine Judicial Branch, the Office of the Attorney General, the Governor's office of opioid response, Maine Prosecutors' Association, Maine Commission on Public Defense Services, the Department of Corrections, county sheriff's offices, the Department of Health and Human Services, Maine Health, Aroostook Mental Health Center, Wellspring, the Community Caring Collaborative, the Co-Occurring Collaborative Serving Maine, Maine Pretrial Services and the Maine Reentry Network, as well as a multitude of

recovery centers and residences, independent treatment providers and physicians and recovery support organizations; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That We, the Members of the One Hundred and Thirty-second Legislature now assembled in the First Special Session, on behalf of the people we represent, take this opportunity to designate May 2025 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, by helping our citizens in their recovery and in restoring hope.