

**STATE OF MAINE**

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**IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD**

**TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-FIVE**

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**JOINT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING MAY 2025 AS NATIONAL  
ARTHRITIS AWARENESS MONTH**

**WHEREAS**, arthritis is the number one cause of disability in the United States, affecting nearly 60 million men, women and children, and nearly 26 million of those with arthritis are unable to perform everyday activities; and

**WHEREAS**, there are more than 100 types of arthritis and related rheumatic diseases and one in 4 adults and hundreds of thousands of children in the United States have been diagnosed with a form of arthritis or a related illness; and

**WHEREAS**, contrary to the common misconception, arthritis is not just an "old person's disease," as about 2/3 of those living with arthritis are aged 65 and under; and

**WHEREAS**, one in three adults with arthritis are not physically active, have fair to poor health and have severe joint pain and most people with arthritis have comorbidities, such as heart disease, diabetes and obesity, that further jeopardize their health; and

**WHEREAS**, as our nation's top cause of disability, arthritis costs the United States economy over \$300 billion annually in medical bills, lost wages and associated expenses; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1972, President Richard Nixon and the United States Congress designated May as National Arthritis Month, a special time to emphasize research, service and education around arthritis and to raise funds to support the cause and every May since then has been marked by efforts to elevate the public's awareness of arthritis; now; therefore; be it

**RESOLVED:** That We, the members of the One Hundred and Thirty-second Legislature now assembled in the First Special Session, take this occasion to recognize May 2025 as National Arthritis Awareness Month and urge citizens of the State to learn more about arthritis, raise awareness of the serious public health and economic issues associated with arthritis and find ways to contribute to a cure for arthritis.