

**STATE OF MAINE**

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**IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD**

**TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-FOUR**

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**JOINT RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE  
LEGISLATURE'S SUPPORT FOR A RESEARCH PROJECT  
TO ANALYZE THE USE OF RESTORATIVE JUSTICE  
PRACTICES IN ADULT DRUG TREATMENT COURT IN  
PROSECUTORIAL DISTRICT NUMBER 6**

**WHEREAS**, numerous studies and experiences have shown that restorative justice is a valuable tool in addressing substance use disorder and other mental health conditions; and

**WHEREAS**, the Department of Corrections has entered into contracts totaling hundreds of thousands of dollars with restorative justice organizations to address juvenile offenses, many of which involve substance use; and

**WHEREAS**, the Honorable John Martin of the Wiscasset District Court has employed restorative justice practices in the Region 6 Adult Drug Treatment Court, which serves Knox County, Waldo County, Lincoln County and Sagadahoc County; and

**WHEREAS**, the success of Judge Martin's use of restorative justice practices has drawn the interest of 2 restorative justice professors at the Vermont Law and Graduate School, who with other practitioners have begun planning a research project to create a statewide model for Maine from Judge Martin's protocols; and

**WHEREAS**, funding for the 3-year research project has already been obtained; and

**WHEREAS**, this research project may show that restorative justice offers bright hope for the State's overcrowded courts, jails and prisons; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED:** That We, the Members of the One Hundred and Thirty-first Legislature now assembled in the Second Regular Session, on behalf of the people we represent, take this opportunity to strongly express our support for the research project being planned by Marc Wennberg and Robert Sand of the Vermont Law and Graduate School, and we look forward to the findings they will present to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over criminal justice and public safety matters upon completion of the project.