

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD

TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-THREE

**JOINT RESOLUTION TO RECOGNIZE MARCH 2023 AS
AMERICAN RED CROSS MONTH**

WHEREAS, American Red Cross Month is a special time to honor the kindness of those persons who aid families in need every day in Maine, across the United States and around the world, their dedication touching millions of lives each year as they carry out the organization's 142-year mission of preventing and alleviating suffering in the face of emergencies; and

WHEREAS, the American Red Cross aspires to turn compassion into action, and Maine residents who are American Red Cross volunteers are an important part of the people of Maine helping one another when there is need; and

WHEREAS, Maine residents, in supporting the American Red Cross, have helped others to get back on their feet after devastating home fires and have assisted communities across the country facing record-breaking hurricanes, floods and wildfires; and

WHEREAS, thanks to the American Red Cross's statewide community of volunteers and partners, people in Maine facing a disaster can meet their basic emergency needs, including having access to safe shelter, food and critical health and mental health services, for free, day and night; and

WHEREAS, because of the American Red Cross's work, children and youth in Maine know how to prepare for and stay safe during a disaster, people have working smoke alarms and emergency escape plans and there are always trained individuals nearby ready to use their skills to save lives; and

WHEREAS, due to the American Red Cross's efforts and local communities hosting blood drives and donating lifesaving blood, anyone can access blood and blood products and the State has a healthy and plentiful blood supply that helps to extend or save lives; and

WHEREAS, military personnel, veterans and their families have access to global emergency communication services and the support they need to cope with deployments and reintegrating into the community because of the American Red Cross; and

WHEREAS, the American Red Cross's Restoring Family Links program helps reconnect families separated by international crises such as armed conflicts, international disasters and migration and displacement; and

WHEREAS, the lifesaving work of the American Red Cross is vital to strengthening resilience in our communities; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That We, the Members of the One Hundred and Thirty-first Legislature now assembled in the First Regular Session, on behalf of the people we represent, take this opportunity to recognize March 2023 as American Red Cross Month, dedicated to all those who continue to advance the noble legacy of the American Red Cross, and ask others to join in the commitment to care for people in need.