

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD

TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-THREE

**JOINT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING APRIL 2023 AS CHILD
ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH**

WHEREAS, child abuse is a community problem, and finding solutions depends on recognizing that the effects of child abuse and neglect are felt by whole communities and need to be addressed by the entire community; and

WHEREAS, effective child abuse and neglect prevention programs succeed because partnerships are created among government agencies, policymakers, nonprofit organizations, health care providers, schools, faith communities, businesses and law enforcement agencies; and

WHEREAS, when families lack access to adequate financial resources, a stable living situation, nutritious food, affordable health care, quality child care and education, a child's healthy development is at risk; and

WHEREAS, all Maine citizens should become more aware of child abuse and neglect and its prevention and become involved in the raising of children in a safe, secure, nurturing environment; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That We, the Members of the One Hundred Thirty-first Legislature now assembled in the First Regular Session, on behalf of the people we represent, take this opportunity to recognize April 2023 as Child Abuse Prevention Month, to recognize that we all have a role to play in strengthening families so as to ensure healthy child development and a duty to help others recognize that role and to celebrate the positive community connections available to our families and caregivers to promote the health and well-being of Maine children and help prevent child abuse and neglect.