

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD

TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-THREE

**JOINT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING APRIL 2023 AS ARAB
AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH**

WHEREAS, for over a century, Arab Americans have been making valuable contributions to virtually every aspect of American society, including in medicine, law, business, education, technology, government, military service and culture; and

WHEREAS, people of Arab ethnicity and culture who have immigrated to America have shared their rich culture and traditions with neighbors and friends, while also setting fine examples as model citizens and public servants; and

WHEREAS, these immigrants brought with them to America their resilient family values, strong work ethic, dedication to education and diversity in faith and creed, which have added strength to our great democracy; and

WHEREAS, Arab Americans have enriched our society by sharing in the entrepreneurial American spirit that makes our nation free and prosperous; and

WHEREAS, the history of Arab Americans in the United States continues to be characterized by misconceptions, bigotry and anti-Arab hate expressed by crimes and hate speech; and

WHEREAS, the civil rights abuses, harmful stereotyping and bullying suffered by Arab Americans must be combated with education and awareness; and

WHEREAS, Arab Americans join all Americans in the desire to see a peaceful and diverse society where every individual is treated equally and feels safe; and

WHEREAS, the incredible contributions and heritage of Arab Americans have helped us build a better nation; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That We, the Members of the One Hundred and Thirty-first Legislature now assembled in the First Special Session, on behalf of the people we represent, take this opportunity to designate April 2023 as Arab American Heritage Month.