

**STATE OF MAINE**

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**IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD**

**TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-THREE**

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**JOINT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING MAY 5, 2023 AS MISSING  
AND MURDERED INDIGENOUS PERSONS AWARENESS DAY**

**WHEREAS**, there are thousands of unsolved cases of missing and murdered Native Americans, including high case rates involving women and girls, including transgender women and girls; and

**WHEREAS**, the number of these cases is disproportionately high compared to cases among the population of the United States as a whole; and

**WHEREAS**, failure to demonstrate the necessary commitment to addressing and preventing this ongoing tragedy fails to honor the dignity and humanity of each person who goes missing or is murdered; and

**WHEREAS**, it is necessary to work with tribal nations to increase coordination among state and tribal entities to investigate and resolve these cases and ensure accountability; and

**WHEREAS**, it is also necessary to address the underlying causes of these cases, including sexual violence, human trafficking, domestic violence, violent crime, systemic racism, economic disparities and substance use and addiction, as well as to put in place a support system to bridge the gap for families in crisis and provide opportunities for healing through community-driven approaches; and

**WHEREAS**, the challenges in tribal communities are best met by solutions that are informed and shaped by tribal leaders and tribal governments; and

**WHEREAS**, an effective community response plan requires critical partnerships within and timely response from the community, tribal law enforcement and local, state and federal law enforcement; 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 recognize May 5, 2023 as Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons Awareness Day in order to remember the indigenous people we have lost and commit to working to ensure that any incident of a missing or murdered person is met with swift and effective action.