

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD

TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-THREE

**JOINT RESOLUTION COMMEMORATING WOMEN'S HISTORY
MONTH AND INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY**

WHEREAS, Maine women of every race, class and ethnic background have made historic contributions to the growth and strength of our State in countless recorded and unrecorded ways; and

WHEREAS, Maine women have played and continue to play critical economic, cultural and social roles in every sphere of the life of our State, whether in the workforce or as unpaid labor within homes and community settings, and as the majority of the State's volunteer workforce; and

WHEREAS, Maine women of every race, class and ethnic background have served and continue to serve as leaders in the establishment of charitable, philanthropic, commercial and cultural institutions in our State and Nation; and

WHEREAS, Maine women have protected and defended our collective rights, responsibilities and freedoms in myriad spheres, including serving our country courageously in the military; and

WHEREAS, Maine women have been leaders, not only in securing their own rights of suffrage and increased opportunity, but also in expanding the rights of all who experience oppression as leaders in the abolitionist movement, the emancipation movement, the industrial labor movement, the civil rights movement and the peace and justice movement, among others, all of which work to create a more fair and just society for all; and

WHEREAS, despite these contributions, the role of Maine women in history has been consistently overlooked and undervalued in the literature, teaching and study of American history; and

WHEREAS, Congress sent the Equal Rights Amendment to the states for ratification more than 50 years ago, and it is long past time that the principle of women's equality be enshrined in the federal and state constitutions; and

WHEREAS, despite progress, women and girls, especially women and girls of color, still experience higher rates of poverty, violence and discrimination and face systemic barriers to full participation in the workforce and society and wider gaps in opportunity and equality, disparities that were exposed and exacerbated during the COVID-19 pandemic, which multiplied the burden on paid and unpaid caregivers and increased the rates of gender-based violence; 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 designate March 2023 as Women's History Month, a time to celebrate and honor the contributions of all Maine women and girls, and to recognize March 8, 2023 as International Women's Day.