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JOINT RESOLUTION TO RECOGNIZE MAY 6 to 12, 2017 AS NATIONAL NURSES WEEK

WHEREAS, the nearly 3,400,000 registered nurses in the United States constitute our nation's largest health care profession; and

WHEREAS, the depth and breadth of the registered nursing profession meet the different and emerging health care needs of the American population in a wide range of settings; and

WHEREAS, the American Nurses Association, as the voice for the registered nurses of this country, is working to chart a new course for a healthy nation that relies on increasing delivery of primary and preventive health care; and

WHEREAS, a renewed emphasis on primary and preventive health care will require better utilization of all of our nation's registered nursing resources; and

WHEREAS, professional nursing has been demonstrated to be an indispensable component of the safety and quality of care of hospitalized patients; and

WHEREAS, the demand for registered nursing services will be greater than ever because of the aging of the American population, the continuing expansion of life-sustaining technologies and the explosive growth of home health care services; and

WHEREAS, more qualified registered nurses will be needed in the future to meet the increasingly complex needs of health care consumers in the State; and

WHEREAS, the cost-effective, safe and high-quality health care services provided by registered nurses will be an increasingly important component of the national health care delivery system in the future; and

WHEREAS, along with the American Nurses Association, the American Nurses Association - Maine has declared May 6 to 12, 2017 as National Nurses Week, with the theme "Culture of Safety - It Starts with You," in celebration of the ways in which registered nurses strive to provide safe and high-quality patient care and to map out the way to improve our health care system; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That We, the Members of the One Hundred and Twenty-eighth Legislature now assembled in the First Regular Session, recognize May 6 to 12, 2017 as National Nurses Week to celebrate registered nurses' accomplishments and efforts to improve our health care system and show our appreciation for the nation's registered nurses not just during this week but at every opportunity throughout the year and ask that all residents of this State join in honoring the registered nurses who care for all of us.