

PLEASE NOTE: Legislative Information **cannot** perform research, provide legal advice, or interpret Maine law. For legal assistance, please contact a qualified attorney.

JOINT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING MARCH 8, 2017 AS INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

WHEREAS, International Women's Day has been celebrated since 1911; and

WHEREAS, Maine women have contributed greatly to the State's, the country's and the world's history, including Frances Perkins, the first woman appointed to the United States Cabinet; Margaret Chase Smith, the first woman to serve in both the United States House of Representatives and the United States Senate; Olympia Snowe, the first woman to serve in both chambers at both the state and federal levels; Edna St. Vincent Millay, a Pulitzer Prize-winning poet; Cornelia "Fly Rod" Crosby, the first registered Maine guide; Samantha Smith, an international peace advocate; Gail Laughlin, the first woman in Maine to practice law; Dorothea Dix, a nurse and advocate for the mentally ill; Frannie Peabody, an HIV/AIDS activist; Judith Isaacson, a Holocaust survivor and educator; Mary Low, one of the first American women to receive a Bachelor of Arts degree; Elizabeth Russell, a ground-breaking geneticist; Mabel Wadsworth, a birth control activist and women's health educator; and Florence Whitehouse, a suffragist, activist and novelist; and

WHEREAS, a record 24.8% of the 7,383 seats in the 99 state legislative chambers in the United States are currently held by women, including 34.41% of the seats in the Maine Legislature; and

WHEREAS, Maine is one of only 6 states with a woman serving as Speaker of the House; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That We, the Members of the One Hundred and Twenty-eighth Legislature now assembled in the First Regular Session, on behalf of the people we represent, take this opportunity to recognize the contributions of Maine women throughout our history and recognize the ongoing march toward gender equality, both in Maine and around the world, and we designate March 8, 2017 as International Women's Day.