

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD

TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-THREE

**JOINT RESOLUTION COMMEMORATING APRIL 2023 AS THE
29TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GENOCIDE AGAINST THE TUTSI
IN RWANDA**

WHEREAS, genocide is a human tragedy inspired by the most repugnant elements of hatred, intolerance and inhumanity; and

WHEREAS, the genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda has been internationally recognized as the massacre of nearly 1,000,000 Tutsi and moderate Hutu in Rwanda; and

WHEREAS, as a result of that genocide, millions of men, women and children were murdered or experienced forced migration; and

WHEREAS, since 1994, the world has commemorated the genocide against the Tutsi in April to honor the memory of the men, women and children who died and to express solidarity with the survivors; and

WHEREAS, the genocide against the Tutsi has left a solemn reminder that we must work together to protect the vulnerable, uphold human rights and prevent genocide; and

WHEREAS, by recognizing, remembering and educating ourselves in all cases of past and ongoing genocide, we help protect historic memory, ensure that similar atrocities do not occur and remain vigilant against hatred, persecution and tyranny; and

WHEREAS, recognizing April as Genocide Awareness and Prevention Month preserves the memory of its victims, honors survivors, assists the struggle against future genocides and fosters a peaceful coexistence between diverse communities; 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 April 2023 as the 29th Anniversary of the genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda and as Genocide Awareness and Prevention Month, and we invite the citizens of the State to join in activities commemorating this solemn observance and to recognize how much more we must do in the struggle against this evil crime against humanity.