

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD

TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-THREE

**JOINT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING FEBRUARY 10, 2023 AS
COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES AWARENESS DAY**

WHEREAS, one in every 4 persons over the age of 18 has a diagnosable mental illness, and many other persons experience brief periods of mental illness in their lifetimes; and

WHEREAS, both in Maine and nationally, mental illness has been received with a reaction of stigma and fear; and

WHEREAS, in 2022, 42 law enforcement departments in the State responded to over 4,500 calls involving mental illness; and

WHEREAS, prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, one in 4 persons in the State received treatment for mental health challenges each year, including persons who were incarcerated, residing in a mental health facility, experiencing homelessness and non-English speakers; and

WHEREAS, according to the Department of Health and Human Services, Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention, in 2021, 160.27 per 10,000 emergency room visits in the State were related to suicidal intent, and for the first 3 quarters of 2022, the figure was 157.36 per 10,000; and

WHEREAS, on February 10, 2023, Legislators throughout the State are invited to visit local mental health care providers and recovery centers to meet clinicians, clients, advocates and family members who are assisting Maine persons living with mental illness; and

WHEREAS, on February 10, 2023, Legislators are also invited to join community leaders to learn more about mental health and substance use disorder and how to provide support at the local level; 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 recognize February 10, 2023 as Community Mental Health Services Awareness Day, to recognize the impact mental illness has on our emotions, cognitive abilities and conduct and to thank the mental health professionals who are working to eradicate stigma and fear and help persons live happier and healthier lives.