

STATE OF MAINE

—
**IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
TWO THOUSAND NINETEEN**
—

**JOINT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING FEBRUARY 26, 2019 AS
SUICIDE PREVENTION DAY**

WHEREAS, suicide is the 10th leading cause of death in the United States and the 2nd leading cause of death among individuals 10 to 34 years of age; and

WHEREAS, in the United States, one person dies by suicide every 12.3 minutes, resulting in over 44,000 suicides each year; and

WHEREAS, suicide is the only leading cause of death in the United States that has increased every year for the past decade; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that there are over 1.1 million suicide attempts each year; and

WHEREAS, over 90% of the people who die by suicide have a diagnosable and treatable mental health condition, which is often not recognized or treated; and

WHEREAS, suicide results in an estimated \$51 billion in combined medical and work loss costs nationally; and

WHEREAS, the stigma associated with mental health conditions and suicidality works against suicide prevention by discouraging persons at risk for suicide from seeking life-saving help and further traumatizes survivors of suicide loss and survivors of suicide attempts; and

WHEREAS, suicide is a preventable national and state public health problem and suicide prevention must be a priority; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That We, the Members of the One Hundred and Twenty-ninth Legislature now assembled in the First Regular Session, on behalf of the people we represent, take this opportunity to recognize February 26, 2019 as Suicide Prevention Day and to recognize the importance of the development and implementation of strategies to increase access to mental health and suicide prevention services.