



WHEREAS, sexual assault is broadly defined as one or more persons choosing to use force, threat of force, intimidation, manipulation, and/or coercion to obtain any form of unwanted sexual contact with another person; and

WHEREAS, survivors of sexual assault are represented in every Maine community, sexual orientation, religion, ability, age, and gender identity, and disproportionately in our most marginalized populations; and

WHEREAS, one in five Maine people will experience sexual violence in their lifetime; and

WHEREAS, sexual violence often has a deep and enduring impact on survivors and their psychological, emotional, social, and physical health; and

WHEREAS, access to informed, supportive, and inclusive services can greatly increase survivors' ability to heal from sexual assault; and

WHEREAS, Sexual Assault Awareness Month recognizes the strength and courage of the survivors of sexual assault or abuse and the power within our communities to create cultures where everyone is safe and respected; and

WHEREAS, the State of Maine is committed to ensuring appropriate, culturally responsive, quality care for victims, survivors, and their families, as well as resources to prevent and respond to sexual violence in our communities; and

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that I, Janet T. Mills, Governor of the State of Maine, do hereby proclaim April 2022 as

Sexual Assault Awareness Month

throughout the State of Maine, and I urge all citizens to recognize the importance of working together to educate our communities about sexual violence prevention, support survivors, and speak out against harmful attitudes and actions.



In testimony whereof, I have caused the Great Seal of the State to be hereunto affixed GIVEN under my hand at Augusta this twentieth day of April Two Thousand Twenty-Two

Janet T. Mills
Governor

Shenna Bellows
Secretary of State