



**WHEREAS**, being a victim of crime and navigating the criminal justice system can be a frightening and confusing experience; and

**WHEREAS**, progress in improving the treatment of crime victims has been made through the efforts of thousands of victims and survivors who have turned their own experiences into a force for positive change, ensuring that others can receive justice, meaningful assistance, and compassionate treatment before the law; and

**WHEREAS**, since the passage of the Victims of Crime Act of 1984, and through the dedicated work of advocates, lawmakers, and victim service providers, there is a growing array of services and resources available to victims and their loved ones; and

**WHEREAS**, honoring the rights of victims – including the rights to be heard and to be treated with fairness, dignity, and respect – and working to meet their needs rebuilds their trust in the criminal justice and social service systems; and

**WHEREAS**, individuals' trust in the compassion, understanding, and support of their communities is achieved through sustained, deep-rooted, and coordinated outreach; and

**WHEREAS**, identifying, reaching, and serving all victims of crime – especially those from groups that often have less access to healing services and avenues to justice – is essential; and

**WHEREAS**, continued engagement with the challenges faced by victims of crime will ensure that the progress made to date is not lost, and that new ground is broken to gain greater justice and healing for all victims; and

**WHEREAS**, National Crime Victims' Rights Week provides an opportunity to recommit to ensuring that accessible, appropriate, and trauma-informed services are offered to all victims of crime; and

**WHEREAS**, the State of Maine is hereby dedicated to supporting victims and survivors in the aftermath of crime, building resilience in our communities and our victim responders, and working for a better future for all victims and survivors;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, be it resolved that I, Janet T. Mills, Governor of the State of Maine, do hereby proclaim the week of April 18th through 24th as

### **Crime Victims' Rights Week**

and reaffirm the State of Maine's commitment to creating a victim service and criminal justice response that assists all victims of crime; and express our sincere gratitude and appreciation for those community members, victim service providers, and criminal justice professionals who are committed to improving our response to all victims of crime so that they may find relevant assistance, support, justice, and peace.



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

Janet T. Mills  
Governor

Shenna Bellows  
Secretary of State