State of Maine

Proclamation

WHEREAS, pain is a major public health problem and is one of the most common reasons Americans seek medical care; and

WHEREAS, 50 million American adults live with chronic pain and 19.6 million live with high-impact chronic pain as a result of serious illnesses and injuries; and

WHEREAS, an estimated one in three Americans are affected by chronic pain, with between 75 million and 159 million Americans experiencing some type of chronic pain on a daily basis; and

WHEREAS, pain negatively impacts almost every aspect of a person's life and emotional well-being including the ability to work, sleep, and engage in social activities, as well as adversely impacts the pain sufferers' families and caregivers; and

WHEREAS, the Institute of Medicine has found that pain costs the United States economy $560 to $630 billion per year in medical expenses, lost wages, lost productivity, and other associated indirect costs; and

WHEREAS, since 1993, the Chronic Pain Support Group of Southern Maine has provided supports for people with pain, has taught coping skills necessary to survive, and has worked with a multidisciplinary group of chronic pain advocates comprised of students, staff, faculty, community members, and concerned individuals to improve the quality of life of people living with pain; and

WHEREAS, health care providers across Maine are working together to raise awareness about chronic pain, to remove the barriers to effective pain care, to eliminate the under-treatment of pain, and to improve the quality of life for those living with pain.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that I, Janet T. Mills, Governor of the State of Maine, do hereby recognize September 2019 as

Pain Awareness Month

throughout the State of Maine, and I urge all citizens to recognize this observance.

In testimony whereof, I have caused the Great Seal of the State to be hereunto affixed GIVEN under my hand at Augusta this thirtieth day of August Two Thousand Nineteen

Janet T. Mills
Governor

Matthew Dunlap
Secretary of State
TRUE ATTESTED COPY