

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD

TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-THREE

**JOINT RESOLUTION DESIGNATING MARCH 12, 2023 TO
MARCH 18, 2023 AS AMERICORPS WEEK IN MAINE**

WHEREAS, service is a hallmark of the American character and has the unique ability to bring people of all backgrounds together in common cause, and throughout our history citizens have stepped up to meet our most pressing challenges of the day by volunteering in their communities; and

WHEREAS, AmeriCorps and AmeriCorps Seniors programs provide opportunities for more than 200,000 Americans to serve their country through service at nonprofits, schools, public agencies and community and faith-based groups across the country; and

WHEREAS, in the State of Maine, more than 2,700 AmeriCorps members and AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers of diverse ages and backgrounds helped to meet local needs at more than 200 locations in the State of Maine by responding to the COVID-19 pandemic, tutoring or mentoring children and youth, supporting veterans, combatting the opioid epidemic, ensuring citizens can age in their communities, working to end hunger in Maine, supporting new Maine residents, restoring the environment, repairing the effects of adverse childhood experiences and working with communities on building resilience; and

WHEREAS, AmeriCorps members and AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers encourage collaboration and partnerships, leveraging millions of volunteers in service and acquiring the support of businesses, foundations and other local partners to increase the effectiveness of their initiatives; and

WHEREAS, AmeriCorps and AmeriCorps Seniors programs bring people together across race, age and place to address critical issues facing the country, forge relationships and cultivate mutual respect and help build resilient and thriving communities; and

WHEREAS, AmeriCorps members and AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers demonstrate commitment, dedication and patriotism by making an intensive commitment to service, a commitment that remains with them in their future endeavors; and

WHEREAS, through their service, AmeriCorps members and AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers strengthen the lives of their families, communities and the State of Maine as a whole; and

WHEREAS, national service represents a unique public-private partnership that invests in community solutions and leverages nonfederal resources to strengthen community impact and increase the return on taxpayer dollars; and

WHEREAS, AmeriCorps Week is an opportunity to recognize the dedication and commitment of the more than 1.2 million Americans who have chosen to serve their country through AmeriCorps and millions more who have served in AmeriCorps Seniors and their community partners and to encourage more Americans to follow in their footsteps in service; 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, designate March 12, 2023 to March 18, 2023 as AmeriCorps Week in Maine and urge citizens to thank AmeriCorps members and alumni and AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers for their service and to find their own ways to give back to their communities.