STATE OF MAINE

_____

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD

TWO THOUSAND AND SIXTEEN

_____

JOINT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE MONTH OF APRIL
2016 AS AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH

WHEREAS, autism is a spectrum disorder, which means no 2 people with autism are affected the same way, and it is a complex developmental disability that usually appears during the first 3 years of life and results in a neurological disorder that affects the functioning of the brain and social interaction and communication skills; and

WHEREAS, in the United States, one in 68 children is diagnosed with this spectrum disorder and prevalence has increased 30% since the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's study in 2008; and

WHEREAS, autism knows no racial, ethnic or social boundaries and neither income nor lifestyle nor education affects its occurrence and it is estimated that more than 3,500,000 people live with autism spectrum disorder in the United States; and

WHEREAS, autism costs the United States over $236,000,000,000 in annual health care costs, most of which are in adult services, and these costs are anticipated to increase; and

WHEREAS, while a single specific cause of autism is not known, current research links it to biological or neurological differences in the brain, and outdated theories and myths, such as autism being a mental illness, have been proven to be false; and

WHEREAS, with support, people with autism can live full lives and make meaningful contributions to society; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That We, the Members of the One Hundred and Twenty-seventh Legislature now assembled in the Second Regular Session, on behalf of the people we represent, pause in our deliberations to acknowledge that the month of April 2016 is Autism Awareness Month and to pledge our support and encouragement to all those affected by autism; and be it further

RESOLVED: That suitable copies of this resolution, duly authenticated by the Secretary of State, be transmitted to the Autism Society of Maine as a token of our respect and support.