

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD

TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-TWO

**JOINT RESOLUTION EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE
PEOPLE OF UKRAINE**

WHEREAS, Ukraine is the second largest country in Europe; and

WHEREAS, on January 21, 1990, more than 300,000 Ukrainians called for unity and independence from the Soviet Union by forming a human chain between the cities of Kyiv and Ivano-Frankivsk; and

WHEREAS, after years of oppression, in 1991 Ukraine won freedom from the Soviet Union's totalitarian dictatorship because of the Ukrainians' love of liberty; and

WHEREAS, Ukraine is a sovereign nation, and the United States and Ukraine have been partners since Ukraine declared its independence from the Soviet Union more than 30 years ago; and

WHEREAS, the people of Maine and the people of Ukraine share a commitment to democracy, human rights and the rule of law; and

WHEREAS, Ukrainians and Ukrainian Americans have enriched our communities through their leadership and contributions in agriculture, business, academia, government and the arts; and

WHEREAS, on December 5, 1994, in an effort to solidify security commitments to Ukraine in return for its nuclear disarmament, the United States, the Russian Federation and the United Kingdom signed the Budapest Memorandum on Security Assurances, whereby each country pledged to respect the independence and sovereignty of Ukraine's borders while refraining from the threat or use of force against Ukraine; and

WHEREAS, over the past 3 decades, the Russian Federation has illegally seized Ukrainian land in Crimea; armed Russian-backed separatists, leading to thousands of deaths; interfered in elections; used chemical weapons to attempt assassinations; carried out cyberattacks and disinformation campaigns abroad; and violated international arms control agreements; and

WHEREAS, on February 24, 2022, Russian President Vladimir Putin abandoned diplomacy and international pleas for peace and launched an unprovoked military invasion of Ukraine; and

WHEREAS, this attack on Ukraine has already killed thousands of Ukrainian service members and civilians and caused an urgent international humanitarian crisis; and

WHEREAS, President Putin has denied the existence of Ukraine and seeks to overthrow the democratically elected government of Ukraine; and

WHEREAS, the Russian Federation has flagrantly violated international law in attempting to unilaterally create 2 new so-called republics on sovereign Ukrainian territory; and

WHEREAS, lasting peace and prosperity require respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of countries and respect for human rights; and

WHEREAS, the people of Ukraine are now engaged in an armed conflict to defend their independence and democratic way of life; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That We, the Members of the One Hundred and Thirtieth Legislature now assembled in the Second Regular Session, on behalf of the people we represent, take this opportunity to recognize the democratic values shared by the people of Maine and the people of Ukraine; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the State of Maine stands in solidarity with the people of Ukraine as they fight for their freedom; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the State of Maine condemns the unprovoked Russian invasion of Ukraine and reiterates its support for peace, diplomacy and an immediate end to the invasion; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the State of Maine recognizes the importance of and commends the steps the United States has taken so far to punish the Russian government for its actions and to offer humanitarian relief to the Ukrainian people; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the State of Maine encourages our citizens to support Ukrainian Americans and the people of Ukraine in their urgent time of need; and be it further

RESOLVED: That suitable copies of this resolution, duly authenticated by the Secretary of State, be transmitted to the Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr., President of the United States, and each Member of the Maine Congressional Delegation.