

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD

TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-THREE

**JOINT RESOLUTION EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE
PEOPLE OF UKRAINE ON THE ONE-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF
RUSSIA'S INVASION OF UKRAINE**

WHEREAS, on February 24, 2022, Russia illegally, without provocation and with brutal aggression invaded Ukraine, continuing the aggression it started with the illegal annexation of Crimea in 2014; and

WHEREAS, President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and the people of Ukraine have bravely resolved to stand firm and fight back against this attack on their country's sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity; and

WHEREAS, Russia is waging a barbarous war that includes systematic violations of international law, inhumane attacks on civilians and critical infrastructure, torture, sexual violence and forced deportation, kidnappings and illegal adoption of children; and

WHEREAS, nearly 14 million people, over a third of Ukraine's prewar population, have been displaced since the invasion began, with an estimated 6 million people being internally displaced and more than 8 million people fleeing Ukraine to neighboring countries, triggering Europe's largest refugee crisis since World War II; and

WHEREAS, there are at least 8,000 confirmed civilian deaths, including over 400 children, and over 13,000 civilians have been wounded; and

WHEREAS, Russia continues to attack and place its armed forces around Ukrainian nuclear sites, including the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant; and

WHEREAS, Russia's unjustified war is having a global impact, with the world's most vulnerable suffering from increased food and economic insecurity, along with rising costs for energy and commodities; and

WHEREAS, President Putin has put Russia's nuclear deterrence forces on high alert, endangering not only Ukraine but also the global community by increasing the threat of nuclear war; and

WHEREAS, President Putin's attack on Ukraine represents a direct threat against democratic ideals and promotes autocracy; and

WHEREAS, the United Nations General Assembly, in its February 23, 2023 resolution, reiterated its clear demand for Russia to withdraw immediately from Ukraine's internationally recognized borders; and

WHEREAS, the people of Maine recognize that they share democratic values with the people of Ukraine and stand in solidarity with the people of Ukraine as they fight for their sovereignty, territorial integrity and democracy; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That We, the Members of the One Hundred and Thirty-first Legislature now assembled in the First Regular Session, pause in our deliberations to condemn the egregious,

unprovoked Russian invasion of Ukraine and voice our support for peace, diplomacy and an immediate end to the invasion; and be it further

RESOLVED: That we support the United States Government's continued security, economic and humanitarian assistance to Ukraine and imposition of consequences on Russia for its war of aggression; and be it further

RESOLVED: That we encourage the citizens of the State to support Ukrainian Americans and the people of Ukraine in their urgent time of need.