

STATE OF MAINE

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IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD

TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-THREE

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JOINT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING JUNE 2, 2023 AS  
NATIONAL GUN VIOLENCE AWARENESS DAY

**WHEREAS**, every day, more than 120 Americans are killed by gun violence and more than 200 are shot and wounded, with an average of more than 17,000 gun homicides every year; and

**WHEREAS**, Americans are 26 times more likely to die by gun homicide than people in other high-income countries; and

**WHEREAS**, protecting public safety in the communities they serve is among Legislators' highest responsibilities; and

**WHEREAS**, support for the Second Amendment rights of law-abiding citizens goes hand in hand with keeping guns away from people who should not have them; and

**WHEREAS**, gun violence prevention is more important than ever as we see an increase in firearm homicides, nonfatal shootings across the country, increased calls to domestic violence hotlines and an increase in city gun violence; and

**WHEREAS**, in January 2013, Hadiya Pendleton was tragically shot and killed at 15 years of age, and on June 2, 2023 people across the United States will wear orange to recognize National Gun Violence Awareness Day, Hadiya Pendleton and other victims of gun violence and the loved ones of those victims and to raise awareness about gun violence; and

**WHEREAS**, the idea of wearing orange was inspired by a group of Hadiya Pendleton's friends, who chose that color because hunters wear orange to announce themselves to other hunters when in the woods and because orange is a color that symbolizes the value of human life; and

**WHEREAS**, the Legislature is committed to reducing gun violence and encouraging responsible gun ownership to help keep our families and communities safe; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED:** That We, the Members of the One Hundred and Thirty-first Legislature now assembled in the First Special Session, on behalf of the people we represent, take this opportunity to recognize June 2, 2023 as National Gun Violence Awareness Day, to honor and remember all victims and survivors of gun violence and to encourage all citizens to support their communities' efforts to prevent the tragic effects of gun violence and to honor and value human lives.