STATE OF MAINE

_____

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD

TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-THREE

_____

JOINT RESOLUTION DESIGNATING MAY 2023 AS
OSTEOPOROSIS AWARENESS AND PREVENTION MONTH

WHEREAS, an estimated 53,000,000 Americans have osteoporosis or low bone mass, and studies suggest that approximately 1 in 2 women and up to 1 in 4 men 50 years of age and older will break a bone due to osteoporosis; and

WHEREAS, approximately 1,800,000 Medicare beneficiaries nationwide suffered approximately 2,100,000 osteoporotic fractures in 2016, and osteoporosis-related bone fractures are responsible for more hospitalizations than heart attacks, strokes or breast cancer; and

WHEREAS, the total annual cost for osteoporotic fractures among Medicare beneficiaries was $57,000,000,000 in 2018 and is expected without reforms to grow to over $95,000,000,000 in 2040 as the population ages; and

WHEREAS, in Maine, 9,000 Medicare beneficiaries suffered over 10,500 osteoporotic fractures in 2016; and

WHEREAS, an estimated 1,400 Medicare beneficiaries in Maine suffered an initial fracture and then a subsequent fracture in 2016, which resulted in estimated costs of over $26,900,000; and

WHEREAS, osteoporosis and the broken bones it can cause are not part of normal aging, and building strong bones must begin in childhood, with peak bone mass being reached by early adulthood, and care for our bones must continue throughout our lives; and

WHEREAS, osteoporosis is often called a silent disease because it is impossible to feel bones weakening, and breaking a bone is often the first sign of osteoporosis; and

WHEREAS, timely bone health screening and osteoporosis diagnosis and treatment can help prevent fractures that lead to hospitalization and nursing home stays; and

WHEREAS, cost-effective postfracture care that improves care coordination has been demonstrated to reduce the number of subsequent or repeat fractures, yet is not widely available or properly incentivized by Medicare; and

WHEREAS, it is crucial that we raise awareness about bone health and osteoporosis among the public, health professionals and policy makers; 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 designate May 2023 as Osteoporosis Awareness and Prevention Month and encourage appropriate health programs and activities with respect to promoting good bone health throughout life and preventing and treating osteoporosis.