

Proclamation

**WHEREAS**, the term “victim” is more than just a label and has legal standing and protections that go along with it; and

**WHEREAS**, crime victims’ rights acts passed here in Maine and at the federal level guarantee victims the right to meaningfully participate in the criminal justice process; and

**WHEREAS**, victim service providers, advocates, law enforcement officers, attorneys, and other allied professionals can help survivors find their justice by enforcing these rights; and

**WHEREAS**, victim service providers and allied professionals can reach more victims through innovative, trauma-informed programs, such as telehealth services and multidisciplinary teams; and

**WHEREAS**, victim service providers and allied professionals can increase access to victim services and compensation in areas that have been historically underserved, marginalized, and adversely affected by inequality by implementing culturally responsive services; and

**WHEREAS**, equity and inclusion are fundamental prerequisites to survivor care, and survivor-led services that provide victims with opportunities to share their experiences are essential blueprints for support; and

**WHEREAS**, National Crime Victim’s Rights Week provides an opportunity to recommit to ensuring that accessible, appropriate, and trauma-informed services are offered to all victims of crime; and

**WHEREAS**, the State of Maine is hereby dedicated to helping crime survivors find their justice by enforcing victims’ rights, expanding access to services, and ensuring equity and inclusion for all;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, be it resolved that I, Janet T. Mills, Governor of the State of Maine, do hereby proclaim the week of April 24th through 30th as

**Crime Victims’ Rights Week**

reaffirming this State’s commitment to creating a victim service and criminal justice response that assists all victims of crime during Crime Victims’ Rights Week and throughout the year; and expressing our sincere gratitude and appreciation for those community members, victim service providers, and criminal justice professionals who are committed to improving our response to all victims of crime so that they may find relevant assistance, support, justice, and peace.



In testimony whereof, I have caused the Great Seal of the State to be hereunto affixed GIVEN under my hand at Augusta this twelfth day of April Two Thousand Twenty-Two

Janet T. Mills  
Governor

Shenna Bellows  
Secretary of State