

State of Maine



**WHEREAS**, seniors are valued members of our State and it is our collective responsibility to ensure they live safely and with dignity; and

**WHEREAS**, elder abuse is an ever-increasing problem in today's society as the growing senior population across all socio-economic boundaries is increasingly targeted; and

**WHEREAS**, there are multiple types of elder abuse, including physical, emotional, and sexual abuse, as well as neglect, abandonment, and financial exploitation; and

**WHEREAS**, all forms of elder abuse continue to be vastly underreported to law enforcement officials and to State agencies, with estimates indicating that only 1 out of 5 cases or fewer are currently reported; and

**WHEREAS**, many agencies of State government, including the Office of Aging and Disability Services, the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation, the Office of the Attorney General, and the Department of Public Safety, are actively engaged in elder abuse education, prevention, and service delivery; and

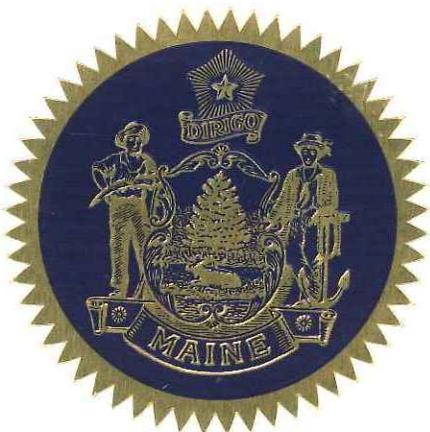
**WHEREAS**, numerous non-profit organizations are devoted to the protection of seniors, including the statewide Elder Abuse Task Force, Maine TRIAD, AARP/Maine, the Area Agencies on Aging, the Maine Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program, the Elder Abuse Institute of Maine, Legal Services for the Elderly, Maine Council for Elder Abuse Prevention, and Volunteers of America Northern New England; and

**WHEREAS**, Elder Abuse Awareness Day will raise awareness of elder abuse and financial exploitation and will reinforce our universal commitment to protecting seniors in our communities.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, PAUL R. LEPAGE**, Governor of the State of Maine, do hereby recognize June 15, 2013 as

**ELDER ABUSE AWARENESS DAY**

throughout the State of Maine, and urge all citizens to recognize this observance.



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

*Paul R. LePage*  
Paul R. LePage  
Governor

*Matthew Dunlap*  
Matthew Dunlap  
Secretary of State

TRUE ATTESTED COPY