

## Recognizing May 5 - 11 as Maine Homeschool Education Week

Whereas, homeschooling has become an integral part of Maine's educational landscape, providing families with the flexibility and autonomy to tailor educational experiences to meet the diverse needs of their children, and

Whereas, homeschooling empowers parents to actively engage in their children's education, fostering strong family bonds, and promoting lifelong learning, and

Whereas, homeschooling encourages academic excellence, creativity, critical thinking skills and character development, preparing students for success in higher education, careers, and civic life, and

Whereas, homeschooling promotes diversity, inclusivity, and respect for individual differences, creating a rich and vibrant educational environment that celebrates the unique talents and perspectives of each student, and

Whereas, homeschooling has demonstrated its resilience and adaptability, providing continuity of education and stability for students and families, especially during times of crisis such as the COVID-19 pandemic with 2023 homeschool enrollment totaling 10,122 Maine students, and

Whereas, homeschooling fosters civic engagement, community involvement and a deep appreciation for the values of citizenship and service, contributing to the well-being and prosperity of our state; now, therefore, be it

Resolved: That We, the members of the One Hundred and Thirty-first Legislature now assembled in the Second Regular Session, on behalf of the people we represent, take this opportunity to declare the week of May 5, 2024 to May 11, 2024 as Maine Homeschool Education Week; and be it further

Resolved that we acknowledge and celebrate the diversity and achievements of homeschooling families and recognize the dedication and commitment of homeschooling parents and educators, and express gratitude for their invaluable contributions to the education and development of Maine's youth.