

WHEREAS, libraries enable individuals to make informed decisions about their self-governance by promoting unrestricted access to information and by serving as community centers for lifelong learning; and

WHEREAS, in a world undergoing constant change, libraries provide enduring connections to the past and future of our communities, nations, and civilizations; and

WHEREAS, the expansion of electronic networks linking libraries and their resources makes possible better and more easily accessible information for library users around the world; and

WHEREAS, libraries provide entry to important research about jobs and careers, health, economics, housing, the environment and countless other areas to support better living conditions and to help people lead longer, more productive and fulfilling lives; and

WHEREAS, libraries support a competitive workforce with basic literacy programs, broadband internet, computers and other resources to help children and adults learn to find, evaluate and use information they need for their jobs, health, education and other needs; and

WHEREAS, many libraries offer pre-school story hour and summer reading programs to encourage children to begin a habit of reading that will serve to benefit their personal and professional lives; and

WHEREAS, of the 1.3 million people living in the State of Maine, more than 650,000 residents have library cards at Maine's public libraries, and more than 8.5 million items were lent by Maine's public libraries in the past year; and

WHEREAS, the American Library Association celebrates National Library Week between April 7, 2019 and April 13, 2019 and Maine Libraries will celebrate "Maine Library Day" on April 24, 2019 in the Hall of Flags of Maine's Statehouse;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that I, Janet T. Mills, Governor of the State of Maine, do hereby proclaim April 2019 as

Maine Libraries Month

and I encourage all citizens to support the purposes and practices of libraries throughout Maine.

In testimony whereof, I have caused the Great Seal of the State to be hereunto affixed GIVEN under my hand at Augusta this twenty-fifth day of March Two Thousand Nineteen

Matthew Dunlap Secretary of State TRUE ATTESTED COPY



Janet T. Mills Governor