State of Maine

Proclamation

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 being reported; and

WHEREAS, many agencies of State government, including the Office of Elder Services, Adult Protective 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, such as 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 proclaim June 15, 2012 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 First day of June
Two Thousand and Twelve

Paul R. LePage
Governor

Charles E. Summers, Jr.
Secretary of State
TRUE ATTESTED COPY