

*State of Maine*



WHEREAS, pain is one of our nation's most serious health problems. An estimated 50 million Americans live with chronic pain caused by various diseases or disorders and each year nearly 25 million Americans suffer with acute pain; and

WHEREAS, medical knowledge and technology exist to relieve or greatly ease pain, but most pain goes untreated, under treated, or improperly treated; and the majority of healthcare professionals are still unaware of how to treat pain effectively. Most people with pain, including those at the end of life, get little relief or no relief; and

WHEREAS, people who suffer from chronic pain are too often stigmatized and marginalized and often not informed about their right to effective pain assessment and management; and

WHEREAS, Partners for Understanding Pain is a consortium of organization that touch the lives of people with chronic, acute, and cancer pain. On the state level, the Maine Pain Initiative, a committee of the Maine Hospice Council, is a multidisciplinary group of health care professionals, consumers, and other interested persons, serving as an advocate for people experiencing pain; and

WHEREAS, these coalitions seek to increase awareness surrounding the under treatment of pain in the State Of Maine, to inspire people to work toward reducing barriers and increasing access to appropriate pain management, and to improve the quality of life of those suffering from pain,

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JOHN E. BALDACCI, Governor of the State of Maine, do hereby proclaim the month of September 2004 as

## **PAIN AWARENESS MONTH**

throughout the State of Maine, and urge all citizens to unite to improve the quality of life for people in Maine suffering from pain.

Dan A. Gwadosky  
Secretary of State  
TRUE ATTESTED COPY



In testimony whereof, I have caused the Great Seal of the State to be hereunto affixed GIVEN under my hand at Augusta this twenty-sixth day of June in the Year of our Lord Two Thousand and Four.

*John E. Baldacci*  
John E. Baldacci  
Governor