

WHEREAS, heart disease is a leading cause of death in Maine, killing approximately 8 people every day in 2005; and

WHEREAS, children are at a higher risk of developing heart disease than ever before because of increasingly sedentary lifestyles and unhealthy diets; and

WHEREAS, many factors that contribute to the development of heart disease are preventable through a nutritious diet and regular exercise; and

WHEREAS, recognizing the signs of a heart attack and immediately calling 9-1-1 can save heart muscle, and prevent death and subsequent disability; and

WHEREAS, 88% of Mainers cannot correctly identify the warning signs of a heart attack and the need to call 9-1-1; and

WHEREAS, the care of heart attack patients has been improved by drugs and technologies that, if applied soon after symptoms begin, save heart muscle from damage caused by lack of blood flow; and

WHEREAS, the Maine Quality Forum's *In a Heartbeat* initiative, a part of the State Health Plan, an initiative born of Dirigo Health Reform, has created a collaborative, statewide, coordinated model for heart attack care with a goal of quality, timely care with the best possible outcomes for patients; and

WHEREAS, increased awareness about the causes of heart disease and the treatment of heart attacks can improve physical functioning and decrease mortality among the people of Maine,

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JOHN E. BALDACCI, Governor of the State of Maine, do hereby proclaim February 2007 as

## **American Heart Month**

throughout the State of Maine, and urge all citizens to join in 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 thirty-first day of January in the Year of our Lord Two Thousand and Seven.

John E. Baldacci Governor

Matthew Dunlap Secretary of State