



Lung Cancer Awareness Month Proclamation

October 4, 2022

WHEREAS, lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer death among men and women in the United States and in Maine in 2022, accounting for more deaths than colon cancer, breast cancer, and prostate cancer combined; and

WHEREAS, according to the American Cancer Society, there were an estimated 1,640 new lung cancer cases and 860 deaths in Maine because of lung cancer in 2022; and

WHEREAS, Maine has the 6th highest rate of new lung cancer cases in the country, and the 12th highest rate of deaths from lung cancer in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Radon is the second-leading cause of lung cancer in Maine and this odorless, colorless gas may build up in homes of any age and can also be found in well water; and

WHEREAS, screening for lung cancer for high-risk individuals can lead to the earlier detection of lung cancer and save lives, yet only 12.4% of high-risk Mainers are being screened; and

WHEREAS, 75% of lung cancer cases in Maine are detected late and are often not treatable; and

WHEREAS, the 5-year survival rate for localized lung cancer is 59%, yet only 17% of lung cancers are diagnosed at this stage; and

WHEREAS, each year more women die from lung cancer than breast cancer and by 2035, more women will die from lung cancer than men; and

WHEREAS, African Americans have the highest lung cancer incidence and mortality of all races, and disparities in lung cancer screening, diagnosis, treatment, and mortality are well characterized among African Americans and other racial minorities; and