



HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 22-1016

BY REPRESENTATIVE(S) Duran and Rich, Bradfield, Luck, Amabile, Bacon, Baisley, Benavidez, Bennett, Bird, Boesenecker, Caraveo, Cutter, Daugherty, Esgar, Exum, Froelich, Gonzales-Gutierrez, Gray, Herod, Hooton, Jodeh, Kennedy, Kipp, Lindsay, Lontine, McCluskie, McCormick, McLachlan, Michaelson Jenet, Mullica, Ortiz, Ricks, Roberts, Sirota, Snyder, Sullivan, Tipper, Titone, Valdez A., Valdez D., Van Beber, Weissman, Will, Woodrow, Young, Garnett;
also SENATOR(S) Jaquez Lewis and Winter, Bridges, Buckner, Coleman, Coram, Danielson, Donovan, Fields, Gardner, Ginal, Gonzales, Hansen, Hinrichsen, Hisey, Holbert, Kirkmeyer, Kolker, Lee, Liston, Lundeen, Moreno, Pettersen, Priola, Rankin, Rodriguez, Scott, Simpson, Smallwood, Sonnenberg, Story, Woodward, Zenzinger, Fenberg.

CONCERNING THE RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH, AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, DESIGNATING MARCH AS COLORADO WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH.

WHEREAS, American women of every race, class, and ethnic background have made historic contributions to the growth and strength of our nation in countless recorded and unrecorded ways, especially in the areas of political and social change; and

WHEREAS, The United States boasts a rich history of women whose vast and courageous achievements speak to the sense of excellence and potential shared by all Americans; and

WHEREAS, Our country would not be where it is without the strength, bravery, insight, and persistence of the women who have come before us; and

WHEREAS, American women have played and continue to play a critical economic, cultural, political, and social role in every sphere of the life of the nation by constituting a significant portion of the labor force, working inside and outside of the home as everything from educators to astronauts; and

WHEREAS, American women have been leaders, not only in securing their own rights of suffrage and equal opportunity, but also in the abolitionist movement, the emancipation movement, the industrial labor movement, the civil rights movement, and other movements that create a more fair and just society for all; and

WHEREAS, The fight for women's suffrage, from the first women's rights convention to enfranchisement, lasted 72 years, with women from all walks of life, political views, and demographic backgrounds asking for the right to voice their opinions at the polls; and

WHEREAS, Before full suffrage, women in Colorado were only granted the right to vote in school elections; and

WHEREAS, Susan B. Anthony and others traveled over mountain passes and to remote parts of Colorado to hold suffrage rallies; and

WHEREAS, Many referendums were proposed but failed because they were only voted on by men, and it took male allies to support women in their endeavor to vote, for it was sons, husbands, and fathers who ultimately heeded their calls; and

WHEREAS, Most of the women who asked for the right to vote never lived to see the enfranchisement of women; and

WHEREAS, Daughters, granddaughters, and great-granddaughters of the women who fought so hard to vote have made their voices heard at the polls for more than 100 years; and

WHEREAS, Women have not only played a critical economic, cultural, and social role in our society, but women have also permanently changed the face of American government and politics; and

WHEREAS, In 1893, Colorado was the first state to give women the

right to vote through popular vote, and a year later Colorado was the first state to elect women to the state legislature; and

WHEREAS, On December 15, 1919, Colorado ratified the 19th Amendment, and on August 26, 1920, after the remaining 35 states ratified the amendment, the 19th Amendment became law; and

WHEREAS, Even though the 19th Amendment had passed, not all women could vote yet. The struggle continued with the following activities expanding the number of women voting:

- The last treaty giving Native Americans the right to vote was passed in 1924, and, at that point, all Native American women citizens could vote;
- The federal policy barring immigrants of Asian descent from becoming United States citizens was repealed in 1952, allowing women of Asian descent the right to vote;
- The "Voting Rights Act of 1965" (VRA), signed into law by President Lyndon B. Johnson, aimed to overcome legal barriers at the state and local levels that prevented African American citizens from exercising their right to vote as guaranteed under the 15th Amendment to the United States Constitution; and
- The VRA was later expanded to ensure that all election materials were also made available in Spanish so that all Hispanic American citizens had access; and

WHEREAS, The first women elected to the Colorado General Assembly in 1894 were Clara Cressingham and Frances S. Klock, both from Arapahoe County, and Carrie C. Holly from Pueblo County; and

WHEREAS, More than 200 women have served in the General Assembly since 1913, including Helen R. Robinson, who became the first woman to serve in the Colorado Senate, and more than 30 of those women have served in both the House of Representatives and the Senate; and

WHEREAS, Past women of distinction within the Colorado General

Assembly include:

- Arie Parks Taylor, the first African American woman elected to the Colorado General Assembly;
- Polly Baca, the first minority woman and first Latina elected to the Colorado State Senate, the first Latina in the nation to serve in both the House of Representatives and the Senate of her state legislature, and the first Latina to serve in leadership in any state legislature within the United States;
- Carrie Holly, the first woman in United States history to initiate and pass a bill, which concerned raising the age of consent for women from 16 to 18 years old;
- Frances Klock, the first woman to chair a committee -- Indian and Military Affairs;
- Betty Benavidez, the first Latina elected to the Colorado General Assembly;
- Norma Anderson, the first woman Majority Leader in both the House of Representatives and the Senate;
- Joan Fitz-Gerald, the first woman Minority Leader in the Senate and President of the Senate;
- Ruth Stockton, the first woman to chair the Joint Budget Committee and the first woman President Pro Tempore of the Senate;
- Crisanta Duran, the first Latina Speaker of the House; and
- Lola Spradley, the first woman Speaker of the House; and

WHEREAS, These pioneering women paved the way for so many firsts in the current legislature, including:

- Brianna Titone, the first transgender woman elected to the Colorado General Assembly;

- Iman Jodeh, the first Muslim elected to the Colorado General Assembly;
- Naquetta Ricks, the first black immigrant elected to the Colorado General Assembly;
- Leslie Herod, the first black, openly gay legislator elected to the Colorado General Assembly; and
- Daneya Esgar, the first openly gay woman to serve in House leadership in Colorado; and

WHEREAS, Women are running for office in unprecedented numbers, following in the footsteps of these great suffragists; and

WHEREAS, Today, women legislators play a vital role in addressing difficult social and economic issues and helping our country and the state of Colorado prepare for the future; and

WHEREAS, Colorado has a high percentage of women serving in the state legislature at 45%, while the national percentage of women state legislators is 30.7%; and

WHEREAS, Colorado currently has 45 women serving in the General Assembly, which is the largest number of women in the legislature in Colorado's history; and

WHEREAS, Such contributions and leadership in areas that help women improve their lives and the lives of those around them led the United Nations, in 1975, to designate March 8 as International Women's Day and led the United States Congress, in 1987, to designate the month of March as National Women's History Month; now, therefore,

Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the Seventy-third General Assembly of the State of Colorado, the Senate concurring herein:

That we, the members of the Seventy-third General Assembly, hereby declare the month of March 2022 to be Colorado Women's History Month in recognition of the struggles, accomplishments, and contributions of American women throughout history.

Be It Further Resolved, That copies of this Joint Resolution be sent to each member of Colorado's congressional delegation, Governor Jared Polis, Lieutenant Governor Dianne Primavera, Secretary of State Jena Griswold, State Treasurer Dave Young, Attorney General Phil Weiser, the League of Women Voters of Colorado, the Coalition Against Global Genocide, and the Colorado Women's Hall of Fame.

Alec Garnett
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE
OF REPRESENTATIVES

Stephen Fenberg
PRESIDENT OF
THE SENATE

Robin Jones
CHIEF CLERK OF THE HOUSE
OF REPRESENTATIVES

Cindi L. Markwell
SECRETARY OF
THE SENATE