

**Second Regular Session
Seventy-third General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO**

ENGROSSED

LLS NO. R22-0961.01 Ashley Athey x2291

HJR22-1016

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 22-1016

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

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

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

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

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.
Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing statute.
Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.

HOUSE
Final Reading
March 18, 2022

1 before us; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

9 ● The last treaty giving Native Americans the right to vote
10 was passed in 1924, and, at that point, all Native American
11 women citizens could vote;

12 ● The federal policy barring immigrants of Asian descent
13 from becoming United States citizens was repealed in
14 1952, allowing women of Asian descent the right to vote;

15 ● The "Voting Rights Act of 1965" (VRA), signed into law
16 by President Lyndon B. Johnson, aimed to overcome legal
17 barriers at the state and local levels that prevented African
18 American citizens from exercising their right to vote as
19 guaranteed under the 15th Amendment to the United States
20 Constitution; and

21 ● The VRA was later expanded to ensure that all election
22 materials were also made available in Spanish so that all
23 Hispanic American citizens had access; and

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

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

32 WHEREAS, Past women of distinction within the Colorado
33 General Assembly include:

- 1 ● Arie Parks Taylor, the first African American woman
2 elected to the Colorado General Assembly;

- 3 ● Polly Baca, the first minority woman and first Latina
4 elected to the Colorado State Senate, the first Latina in the
5 nation to serve in both the House of Representatives and
6 the Senate of her state legislature, and the first Latina to
7 serve in leadership in any state legislature within the United
8 States;

- 9 ● Carrie Holly, the first woman in United States history to
10 initiate and pass a bill, which concerned raising the age of
11 consent for women from 16 to 18 years old;

- 12 ● Frances Klock, the first woman to chair a committee --
13 Indian and Military Affairs;

- 14 ● Betty Benavidez, the first Latina elected to the Colorado
15 General Assembly;

- 16 ● Norma Anderson, the first woman Majority Leader in both
17 the House of Representatives and the Senate;

- 18 ● Joan Fitz-Gerald, the first woman Minority Leader in the
19 Senate and President of the Senate;

- 20 ● Ruth Stockton, the first woman to chair the Joint Budget
21 Committee and the first woman President Pro Tempore of
22 the Senate;

- 23 ● Crisanta Duran, the first Latina Speaker of the House; and

- 24 ● Lola Spradley, the first woman Speaker of the House; and

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

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

- 29 ● Iman Jodeh, the first Muslim elected to the Colorado
30 General Assembly;

- 1 ● Naquetta Ricks, the first black immigrant elected to the
2 Colorado General Assembly;
- 3 ● Leslie Herod, the first black, openly gay legislator elected
4 to the Colorado General Assembly; and
- 5 ● Daneya Esgar, the first openly gay woman to serve in
6 House leadership in Colorado; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

29 *Be It Further Resolved,* That copies of this Joint Resolution be sent
30 to each member of Colorado's congressional delegation, Governor Jared
31 Polis, Lieutenant Governor Dianne Primavera, Secretary of State Jena
32 Griswold, State Treasurer Dave Young, Attorney General Phil Weiser,

- 1 the League of Women Voters of Colorado, the Coalition Against Global
- 2 Genocide, and the Colorado Women's Hall of Fame.