

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO.249

Reps. Scott, Aiyash, Bezotte, Cherry, Haadsma, Hood, Koleszar, Rabhi, Rogers, Sabo, Sneller, Sowerby, Thanedar, Weiss, Witwer and Young offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to declare March 8, 2022, as International
2 Women's Day in the state of Michigan.

3 Whereas, March 8, 2022, marks the 111th anniversary of the
4 celebration of International Women's Day. Originally began in
5 response to terrible working conditions and exploitation, 15,000
6 women took to the streets in New York protesting the terrible
7 working conditions they endured. It is celebrated on March 8 of
8 every year; and

9 Whereas, International Women's Day is a global day celebrating
10 the economic, political, and social achievements of women in the
11 past, present, and future. It is a day when women are recognized

1 for their achievements, regardless of divisions, whether national,
2 ethnic, linguistic, cultural, economic, or political. It is an
3 occasion for looking back on past struggles and accomplishments
4 and, more importantly, for looking ahead to the untapped potential
5 and opportunities that await future generations of women; and

6 Whereas, In different regions the focus of the celebrations
7 ranges from general celebration of respect, appreciation, and love
8 towards women to a celebration for women's economic, political, and
9 social achievements; and

10 Whereas, The earliest Women's Day observance was held in 1909
11 in New York and was organized in remembrance of the strike of the
12 International Ladies' Garment Workers Union. At the second
13 International Women's Conference in 1910, the first International
14 Women's Day was officially established to promote equal rights,
15 including suffrage, for women. The following year, International
16 Women's Day was marked by over a million people in Austria,
17 Denmark, Germany, and Switzerland. The efforts of early European
18 pioneers led to women gaining the right to vote and to hold public
19 office and the establishment of many early prohibitions against
20 employment sex discrimination; and

21 Whereas, In 1975, during the United Nations (UN) International
22 Year for Women, the UN held its first official celebration of
23 International Women's Day. Two years later, in December 1977, the
24 General Assembly adopted a resolution proclaiming a United Nations
25 Day for Women's Rights and International Peace to be observed by
26 member states. In adopting this resolution, the General Assembly
27 recognized the role of women in peace efforts and development and
28 urged an end to discrimination and an increase of support for
29 women's full and equal participation; and

1 Whereas, Beginning in 1996, International Women's Day
2 organizers began adopting a theme to each year's celebrations that
3 reinforces its commitment to women's rights and world peace.
4 Successful campaigns centered on such themes as "Celebrating the
5 Past, Planning for the Future" (1996) and "Women in Decision-
6 Making" (2006); and

7 Whereas, Presidents of the United States have consecutively
8 declared March to be Women's History Month since 1988 after the
9 National Women's History Project petitioned the United States
10 Congress in 1987 for recognition of Women's History Month, and have
11 since announced the 2021 theme of "Valiant Women of the Vote:
12 Refusing to be Silenced continues to celebrate the Suffrage
13 Centennial"; and

14 Whereas, On the occasion of 2010 International Women's Day,
15 the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) drew attention
16 to the hardships displaced women endure by spreading awareness of
17 the displacement of populations as one of the gravest consequences
18 of today's armed conflicts; and

19 Whereas, There are more than 3.8 billion women in the world
20 today. Women around the world participate in the political, social,
21 and economic life of their communities, play a critical role in
22 providing and caring for their families, contribute substantially
23 to the growth of economies, and, as both farmers and caregivers,
24 play an important role in advancing food security for their
25 communities; and

26 Whereas, The advancement of women is a public policy priority
27 for our country and the state of Michigan and the ability of women
28 to realize their full potential is critical to the ability of a
29 country and state to achieve strong and lasting economic growth and

1 social stability; and

2 Whereas, 2020 saw an historic shattering of a glass ceiling
3 with the election of Kamala Harris as the first female Vice-
4 President of the United States. The hope is that someday soon the
5 ultimate glass ceiling will be shattered with the election of the
6 first female U.S. President; and

7 Whereas, Although strides have been made in recent decades,
8 women around the world continue to face significant obstacles in
9 all aspects of their lives, including underrepresentation in all
10 aspects of public life, denial of basic human rights, and
11 discrimination; and

12 Whereas, Despite some achievements by individual women
13 leaders, women around the world are still vastly underrepresented
14 in high level positions and in national and local legislatures and
15 governments and, according to the Inter-Parliamentary Union, women
16 account for only 25 percent of national parliamentarians; and

17 Whereas, Women remain underrepresented in conflict prevention
18 and conflict resolution efforts, despite proven successes by women
19 in conflict-affected regions in moderating violent extremism,
20 resolving disputes through non-violent mediation and negotiation,
21 and stabilizing their societies by improving access to peace and
22 security services, institutions, and decision-making venues; and

23 Whereas, March 8 is recognized each year as International
24 Women's Day, a global day to celebrate the economic, political, and
25 social achievements of women past, present, and future, and a day
26 to recognize the obstacles that women still face in the struggle
27 for equal rights and opportunities; now, therefore, be it

28 Resolved by the House of Representatives, That the members of
29 this legislative body declare March 8, 2022, as International

1 Women's Day in the state of Michigan. We support the goals of
2 International Women's Day, recognize that the empowerment of women
3 is inextricably linked to the potential of countries to generate
4 economic growth, sustainable democracy, and inclusive security,
5 honor the women in the United States and around the world who have
6 worked throughout history to ensure that women are guaranteed
7 equality and basic human rights, reaffirm the movement's commitment
8 to ending discrimination and violence against women and girls, to
9 ensuring the safety and welfare of women and girls, and to pursuing
10 policies that guarantee the basic human rights of women and girls
11 worldwide, and encourage the people of Michigan to observe
12 International Women's Day with appropriate programs and activities.