

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 49

Reps. Scott, Garza, Breen, Neeley, Witwer, Lasinski, Clemente, Brabec, Sneller, Ellison, Puri, Steenland, Young, Manoogian, Pohutsky, Anthony, Brenda Carter, Cavanagh, Rabhi, Tyrone Carter, Thanedar, Bolden, O'Neal, Hood, Peterson, Whitsett, Sowerby, Brixie, Hope, Aiyash, Jones, Coleman, Sabo, Hertel, Tate, Bezotte, Kuppa, Koleszar, Morse, Shannon and Yancey offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to declare March 8, 2021, as International
2 Women's Day in the state of Michigan.

3 Whereas, March 8, 2021, marks the 110th 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

1 every year; and

2 Whereas, International Women's Day is a global day celebrating
3 the economic, political, and social achievements of women in the
4 past, present, and future. It is a day when women are recognized
5 for their achievements, regardless of divisions, whether national,
6 ethnic, linguistic, cultural, economic, or political. It is an
7 occasion for looking back on past struggles and accomplishments
8 and, more importantly, for looking ahead to the untapped potential
9 and opportunities that await future generations of women; and

10 Whereas, In different regions the focus of the celebrations
11 ranges from general celebration of respect, appreciation, and love
12 towards women to a celebration for women's economic, political, and
13 social achievements; and

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

25 Whereas, In 1975, during the United Nations (UN) International
26 Year for Women, the UN held its first official celebration of
27 International Women's Day. Two years later, in December 1977, the
28 General Assembly adopted a resolution proclaiming a United Nations
29 Day for Women's Rights and International Peace to be observed by

1 member states. In adopting this resolution, the General Assembly
2 recognized the role of women in peace efforts and development and
3 urged an end to discrimination and an increase of support for
4 women's full and equal participation; and

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

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

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

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

1 Whereas, The advancement of women is a public policy priority
2 for our country and the state of Michigan and the ability of women
3 to realize their full potential is critical to the ability of a
4 country and state to achieve strong and lasting economic growth and
5 social stability; and

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

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

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

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

27 Whereas, March 8 is recognized each year as International
28 Women's Day, a global day to celebrate the economic, political, and
29 social achievements of women past, present, and future, and a day

1 to recognize the obstacles that women still face in the struggle
2 for equal rights and opportunities; now, therefore, be it

3 Resolved by the House of Representatives, That the members of
4 this legislative body declare March 8, 2021, as International
5 Women's Day in the state of Michigan. We support the goals of
6 International Women's Day, recognize that the empowerment of women
7 is inextricably linked to the potential of countries to generate
8 economic growth, sustainable democracy, and inclusive security,
9 honor the women in the United States and around the world who have
10 worked throughout history to ensure that women are guaranteed
11 equality and basic human rights, reaffirm the movement's commitment
12 to ending discrimination and violence against women and girls, to
13 ensuring the safety and welfare of women and girls, and to pursuing
14 policies that guarantee the basic human rights of women and girls
15 worldwide, and encourage the people of Michigan to observe
16 International Women's Day with appropriate programs and activities.