

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO.249

Rep. Scott 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
12 for their achievements, regardless of divisions, whether national,
13 ethnic, linguistic, cultural, economic, or political. It is an

1 occasion for looking back on past struggles and accomplishments
2 and, more importantly, for looking ahead to the untapped potential
3 and opportunities that await future generations of women; and

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

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

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

28 Whereas, Beginning in 1996, International Women's Day
29 organizers began adopting a theme to each year's celebrations that

reinforces its commitment to women's rights and world peace. Successful campaigns centered on such themes as "Celebrating the Past, Planning for the Future" (1996) and "Women in Decision-Making" (2006); and

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

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

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

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

Whereas, 2020 saw an historic shattering of a glass ceiling

1 with the election of Kamala Harris as the first female Vice-
2 President of the United States. The hope is that someday soon the
3 ultimate glass ceiling will be shattered with the election of the
4 first female U.S. President; and

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

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

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

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

26 Resolved by the House of Representatives, That the members of
27 this legislative body declare March 8, 2022, as International
28 Women's Day in the state of Michigan. We support the goals of
29 International Women's Day, recognize that the empowerment of women

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