

IN THE SENATE

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 147

BY STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 STATING FINDINGS OF THE LEGISLATURE AND RECOGNIZING NATIONAL WOMEN'S HIS-  
2 TORY MONTH.  
3

4 Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Idaho:

5 WHEREAS, at the time of the American Revolution, the notion of education  
6 as a safeguard for democracy created opportunities for girls to receive a ba-  
7 sic education; and

8 WHEREAS, advocates of secondary education for women faced arguments  
9 from physicians and others who claimed that females were incapable of intel-  
10 lectual development equal to men, and that they would be harmed by striving  
11 for it; and

12 WHEREAS, against social convention and often legal restraints, women  
13 have created a legacy in Idaho and in the world that demonstrates their char-  
14 acter, courage and commitment to asserting their human dignity and equality.  
15 An early example is Emma Edwards Green, who designed the Idaho state seal  
16 and described in it the figure of a woman "signifying justice, as noted by  
17 the scales; liberty, as denoted by the liberty cap on the end of the spear,  
18 and equality with man as denoted by her position at his side, also signi-  
19 fies freedom." Other examples include Elizabeth Ingram, a schoolteacher  
20 who formed the first women's suffrage organization in Idaho in 1893; Helen  
21 Louise Young, who was admitted as the first woman lawyer in Idaho; and Clara  
22 Campbell, Hattie Noble, and Mary A. Wright, who were the first women to serve  
23 as Idaho state legislators in 1898. While these women were inspirational for  
24 their achievements, they were also a rarity; and

25 WHEREAS, while Idaho voters made Idaho the fourth state to extend the  
26 right to vote to women, Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony were  
27 campaigning on the national front for women's suffrage in 1896, and similar  
28 struggles were taking place around the world; and

29 WHEREAS, on March 19, 1911, the first International Women's Day was ob-  
30 served in Austria, Denmark, Germany and Switzerland, with both men and women  
31 attending rallies concerning a woman's right to work under decent labor con-  
32 ditions, to vote, to be educated, to hold public office and to hold other  
33 rights denied to women; and

34 WHEREAS, following 1911, International Women's Day has been observed  
35 each year on March 8th and is a platform for celebrating women's progress and  
36 for bringing attention to gaps in gender equality where they still exist; and

37 WHEREAS, in 1981, Congress passed a resolution making Women's History  
38 Week a national observance, extending it in 1987 to Women's History Month for  
39 the entire month of March each year; and

40 WHEREAS, the women of Idaho of every race, class and ethnic background  
41 have made historic contributions to the growth and strength of our state in  
42 countless recorded and unrecorded ways; and

1           WHEREAS, the women of Idaho have played and continue to play a critical  
2 economic, cultural, and social role in every sphere of the life of our state  
3 by constituting a significant portion of the labor force working inside and  
4 outside of the home, and these contributions have been historically over-  
5 looked and undervalued in the teaching of history; and

6           WHEREAS, women constitute 52% of Idaho's population and have proven  
7 their skill in holding elected office, serving on boards or commissions and  
8 in leadership positions in both private and public sectors. We recognize  
9 that the state and her citizens are best served when women participate in  
10 the public arena and in leadership positions to the fullest extent of their  
11 capabilities.

12          NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the members of the Second Regular Ses-  
13 sion of the Sixty-third Idaho Legislature, the Senate and the House of Rep-  
14 resentatives concurring therein, that March 2016 is recognized as Women's  
15 History Month, and the citizens of Idaho are invited and encouraged to learn  
16 about the roles that Idaho women have played throughout the history of our  
17 nation and state and to support and look forward to women's accomplishments  
18 in the future.