

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 151

By Finney L

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend the Jackson Business and Professional Women's Club on the occasion of its ninetieth anniversary.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those estimable organizations that strive to achieve equity for all women in the workplace through advocacy, education, and information; and

WHEREAS, the Jackson Business and Professional Women's Club (Jackson BPW), is one such notable organization that evinces the greatest integrity and probity in all its chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, forty years after the passage of the Equal Pay Act and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act, women continue to suffer the consequences of inequitable pay differentials; and

WHEREAS, over a working lifetime, the wage disparity between men and women costs the average American woman and her family an estimated \$700,000 in lost wages, impacting Social Security benefits and pensions; and

WHEREAS, fair pay policies can be implemented simply and without undue costs or hardship in both the public and private sectors, strengthening the security of families today, easing future retirement costs, and enhancing the American economy; and

WHEREAS, with noble objectives, the Jackson BPW seeks to elevate the standards for women in business and in the professions, promote the interests of business and professional women, bring about a spirit of cooperation among business and professional women of the United States, and extend opportunities to business and professional women through education along the lines of industrial, scientific, and vocational activities; and

WHEREAS, sharing the vision and hopes of its parent organizations, the Tennessee Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs, Inc. (TN/BPW), and the National Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs, Inc. (USA/BPW), the Jackson BPW maintains a long tradition of state and community usefulness, gaining prestige and power for the business and professional women of Jackson, Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, in April of 1919, approximately twenty-five women met in the Jackson library to organize the Jackson BPW; Alice Drake was elected as the first president of the newly established organization; and

WHEREAS, one of the oldest business and professional women's clubs in the country, the Jackson BPW holds charter memberships in both the TN/BPW and the USA/BPW; and

WHEREAS, over the years, the Jackson BPW has participated in a number of community endeavors that include sponsoring several leadership seminars and workshops, instituting a community-wide prayer breakfast, and establishing a college loan fund and the Frances Owen Memorial Fund; and

WHEREAS, both the college loan fund and the Frances Owen Memorial Fund were created by the Jackson BPW to help finance education for women by providing an annual scholarship for a woman preparing for a business or professional career; and

WHEREAS, for ninety years, the political activism by the Jackson BPW on the local, state, and national levels has led the way for business and professional women in the honorable charge for equal pay in the workplace; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud the past and present members of the Jackson Business and Professional Women's Club for their dedication to improving the workplace for the women of this State and Nation; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the members, both past and present, of the Jackson Business and Professional Women's Club for their ninety years of outstanding service for the women of

this State and Nation, applaud them for their ongoing legacy of integrity and commitment to excellence, and wish them much continued success in their future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.