



2021 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 15

March 16, 2021 - Introduced by Senators JOHNSON, AGARD, BERNIER, BEWLEY, CARPENTER, ERPENBACH, LARSON, PFAFF, RINGHAND, ROYS, SMITH, L. TAYLOR and WIRCH, cosponsored by Representatives S. RODRIGUEZ, SUBECK, SINICKI, HONG, STUBBS, ANDERSON, ANDRACA, BALDEH, BILLINGS, BOWEN, BROSTOFF, CABRERA, CONLEY, CONSIDINE, DOYLE, DRAKE, EMERSON, GOYKE, HAYWOOD, HEBL, HESSELBEIN, HINTZ, MCGUIRE, B. MEYERS, MILROY, MURSAU, L. MYERS, NEUBAUER, ORTIZ-VELEZ, POPE, RIEMER, ROZAR, SHANKLAND, SHELTON, SNODGRASS, SPREITZER, VINING, VRUWINK and MOORE OMOKUNDE. Referred to Committee on Senate Organization.

1 **Relating to:** proclaiming March 2021 as Women’s History Month.

2 Whereas, American women of every race, class, and ethnic background have
3 made historic contributions to the growth and strength of our nation in countless
4 recorded and unrecorded ways; and

5 Whereas, American women have played, and continue to play, a critical
6 economic, cultural, and social role in every sphere of life and constitute a significant
7 portion of the labor force working inside and outside the home; and

8 Whereas, American women have played a unique role throughout the history
9 of the nation by providing the majority of the volunteer labor force; and

10 Whereas, American women were particularly important in the establishment
11 of early philanthropic and cultural institutions in our nation; and

12 Whereas, American women have been leaders, not only in securing their own
13 rights of suffrage and equal opportunity, but also in the abolitionist movement, the
14 emancipation movement, the industrial labor movement, the civil rights movement,

1 and the peace movement, all of which have created a fairer and more just society for
2 all; and

3 Whereas, in 1925, not one but three women were the first female assembly
4 representatives to be elected to the Wisconsin Legislature; and

5 Whereas, Assembly Representative Mildred Barber, a Republican teacher,
6 Assembly Representative Helen Brooks, a Republican teacher, and Assembly
7 Representative Helen Thompson, a Republican teacher and hotel keeper, paved the
8 way for other female leaders to hold legislative positions in Wisconsin; and

9 Whereas, Democrat Marcia P. Coggs was elected to the state assembly in 1977,
10 becoming the first African American woman to serve in the assembly; and

11 Whereas, Democrat JoCasta Zamarripa, elected in 2010, became the first
12 Latina elected to the assembly; and

13 Whereas, Democrat Francesca Hong, elected in 2020, became the first Asian
14 American and Pacific Islander elected to the legislature; and

15 Whereas, Democrat Kathryn Morrison, elected in 1974, became the first
16 woman elected to the state senate; and

17 Whereas, Democrat Gwen Moore, elected in 1992, became the first African
18 American woman elected to the state senate; and

19 Whereas, in 2014, Republican Pat Strachota became the first woman to serve
20 as assembly majority leader; and

21 Whereas, in 1985, Senator Susan Engeleiter became the first Republican
22 woman to be senate minority leader, and she was the youngest woman ever elected
23 to the Wisconsin Legislature; and

24 Whereas, in 2003, Senator Mary Panzer became the first Republican woman to
25 be senate majority leader, and in 2005, Senator Judith Robson became the first

1 Democratic woman to be senate minority leader and, in 2007, became the first
2 Democratic woman to be senate majority leader, making them the highest-ranking
3 women legislators; and

4 Whereas, in 1973, Barbara Thompson became the first woman to serve as
5 superintendent of public instruction; and

6 Whereas, in 1978, Democrat Vel Phillips became the first African American
7 woman elected to statewide office as secretary of state; and

8 Whereas, in 2019, Carolyn Stanford Taylor became the first African American
9 woman to serve as superintendent of public instruction; and

10 Whereas, Margaret Farrow was the first Republican woman to be lieutenant
11 governor, and Barbara Lawton was the first Democratic woman to be lieutenant
12 governor in Wisconsin's history; and

13 Whereas, in 1996 Justice Shirley S. Abrahamson became the first woman to
14 serve as chief justice of the Wisconsin Supreme Court; and

15 Whereas, Democrat Tammy Baldwin became the first woman in the history of
16 Wisconsin to be elected to the United States Senate and the first openly LGBTQ
17 person to serve in the United States Senate; and

18 Whereas, in 2021, a total of 41 women took their seats in the state assembly and
19 senate, the most ever in Wisconsin history; and

20 Whereas, the role of American women continues to evolve and their positive
21 contributions to our culture, society, and government continue to grow and inspire
22 future generations; now, therefore, be it

23 ***Resolved by the senate, the assembly concurring, That*** the month of March
24 2021 shall be designated as Women's History Month.

25 (END)