

2001 ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION 46

1 **Relating to:** urging all Wisconsinites to observe March as “Women’s History
2 Month.”

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

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

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

11 Whereas, American women were particularly important in the establishment
12 of early charitable, philanthropic, educational, and cultural institutions in the
13 Nation; and

1 Whereas, American women of every race, class, and ethnic background served
2 as early leaders in the forefront of every major progressive social change movement;
3 and

4 Whereas, American women have been leaders, not only in securing their own
5 rights of suffrage and equal opportunity, but also in the Abolitionist Movement, the
6 Emancipation Movement, the Industrial Labor Movement, the Civil Rights
7 Movement, and other movements, especially the Peace Movement, which create a
8 more fair and just society for all; and

9 Whereas, Wisconsin has been blessed with many women who have risen above
10 stereotypes and who have become the first to achieve notable station, including
11 Shirley Abrahamson, the first woman to serve on the Wisconsin State Supreme
12 Court and the first woman chief justice; Belle Case La Follette, the first woman to
13 graduate from the University of Wisconsin Law School; Katherine Lyall, the first
14 woman president of the University of Wisconsin System; Vel Phillips, the first Black
15 constitutional officer in Wisconsin; Dena Smith, the first woman elected to statewide
16 office in Wisconsin; Rosa A. Smith, the first Black woman to serve as a
17 superintendent of schools; Donna Shalala, the first woman chancellor of the
18 University of Wisconsin–Madison; Kathryn Morrison, the first woman elected to the
19 state senate; and Barbara Thompson, the first woman to hold the elective office of
20 state superintendent of public instruction; and

21 Whereas, Wisconsin women have earned the outstanding achievement of
22 winning the Pulitzer Prize, including author Edna Ferber for the novel *So Big*, and
23 author Zona Gale for the novel *Miss Zulu Bett*; and

24 Whereas, Wisconsin women have been national leaders in women's suffrage,
25 including Kathryn Clarenbach, founder of the National Organization of Women and

1 the National Women’s Political Caucus; and Carrie Chapman Catt, suffragist and
2 president of the National American Woman Suffrage Association, which she
3 reorganized as the League of Women Voters; and

4 Whereas, in 1920 the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution (women’s
5 suffrage) was ratified, and Wisconsin was the first state to deliver its ratification to
6 Washington; and

7 Whereas, despite these contributions, the role of American women in history
8 has been consistently overlooked and undervalued in the literature, teaching, and
9 study of American History; now, therefore, be it

10 ***Resolved by the assembly, the senate concurring, That*** the members of the
11 Wisconsin legislature call upon the citizens of Wisconsin to observe March as
12 “Women’s History Month” with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities;
13 and, be it further

14 ***Resolved, That*** communities in Wisconsin are encouraged to continually
15 recognize the abilities and contributions of women and girls who have contributed
16 to the progress and success of our state from its founding to the present day.

17 (END)