

SENATE RESOLUTION  
8648

By Senators Angel, Dammeier, Bailey, Parlette, Padden, Miloscia, Becker, Warnick, Hill, Kohl-Welles, Darneille, Frockt, Roach, Rivers, Sheldon, Dandel, King, Brown, Schoesler, Benton, Fain, Braun, Keiser, Fraser, and Conway

1           WHEREAS, Washington has a rich history of being a champion for  
2 women's rights and a national leader in promoting progress for women,  
3 having been one of the first states to grant suffrage to women; and

4           WHEREAS, In 1910 Washington distinguished itself by becoming the  
5 fifth state in the nation and the first on the Pacific coast to  
6 permanently enact women's suffrage; and

7           WHEREAS, Although it took an additional 10 years, Washington's  
8 action inspired and reinvigorated the national suffrage movement,  
9 culminating in the ratification of the 19th Amendment to the United  
10 States Constitution in 1920, assuring all women in the nation the  
11 right to vote; and

12           WHEREAS, Washington's history would look very different today had  
13 it not been for the courageous women who were willing to speak out  
14 against the status quo in pursuit of equal rights for all; and

15           WHEREAS, Susan B. Anthony was a catalyst for change, and spoke on  
16 suffrage legislation before members of the Washington State  
17 Territorial Legislature in Olympia on October 19, 1871, making her  
18 the first woman in the history of the United States to be given the  
19 privilege of addressing an assembled legislature; and

20           WHEREAS, Susan B. Anthony paved the way for women leaders, with  
21 2014 marking the 101st year since women first began serving in the  
22 Washington State Legislature, the next major step in equality after  
23 Washington women won the right to vote in 1910; and

24           WHEREAS, Over the past 100 years, women have made significant  
25 marks on the history of Washington and the legislative process  
26 through their hard work, effective leadership, and broad influence,  
27 transforming economic, cultural, political, family, and social issues  
28 in Washington; and

29           WHEREAS, In 1926, Bertha Landes became the first woman to lead a  
30 major American city as mayor of Seattle, and gender barriers  
31 continued to crumble when Belle Reeves became Washington's first  
32 female secretary of state; and

33           WHEREAS, In 1977, Dixy Lee Ray became Washington's first female  
34 governor, and only two years later Senator Jeannette Hayner became

1 the first woman to serve as the majority leader in the  
2 Washington State Senate; and

3 WHEREAS, Washington was the first state in the nation to  
4 have two female United States senators, Patty Murray and Maria  
5 Cantwell, and a female governor, Christine Gregoire, at the same  
6 time; and

7 WHEREAS, Chief Justice Barbara Madsen leads the state  
8 Supreme Court, where a majority of the justices are women, and  
9 Kim Wyman serves as Washington's 15th secretary of state and the  
10 second female to hold that office in Washington's 126-year  
11 history; and

12 WHEREAS, Cathy McMorris Rodgers, elected to the United  
13 States House of Representatives in 2004, is currently the  
14 highest ranking Republican woman in the House;

15 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Senate recognize  
16 these women and many others who have served Washington  
17 diligently and boldly, and applaud them for changing the course  
18 of history and promoting the full equality of women; and

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That Washington has consistently  
20 been a national leader in the percentage of women serving in the  
21 state legislature, and that the Washington State Senate honor  
22 the legacy of women leaders in service to the State of  
23 Washington and celebrate their role in our democratic process  
24 over the past 100 years.

25 I, Hunter G. Goodman, Secretary of the Senate,  
26 do hereby certify that this is a true and  
27 correct copy of Senate Resolution 8648,  
28 adopted by the Senate  
29 March 25, 2015

30 HUNTER G. GOODMAN  
31 Secretary of the Senate