

SENATE RESOLUTION  
8632

By Senators Chase and Kohl-Welles

1           WHEREAS, International Women's Day first emerged from the  
2 activities of labor movements at the turn of the twentieth century  
3 and has both local and global dimensions; and

4           WHEREAS, Washington women of every race, class, and ethnic  
5 background have made historic contributions to the growth and  
6 strength of our state and nation in countless recorded and unrecorded  
7 ways; and

8           WHEREAS, Washington women have played and continue to play a  
9 critical political, economic, cultural, and social role in every  
10 sphere of life by constituting a significant portion of the labor  
11 force, and have made progress in closing the gender gap since 1971;  
12 and

13           WHEREAS, The Washington State Women's Council and Washington  
14 Women United, 1971-1986, were established, "To consider appropriate  
15 questions pertaining to the rights and needs of women in contemporary  
16 America and to make recommendations to the Legislature with respect  
17 to desirable changes in program and law"; and

18           WHEREAS, The Washington State Women's Council and Washington  
19 Women United worked to pass legislation overcoming discrimination  
20 against women, including the Washington State Equal Rights Amendment,  
21 a community property bill that required that the ownership and  
22 management of assets be equally shared between married partners, and

1 a bill requiring all jobs to be advertised in Washington newspapers  
2 without reference to gender; and

3 WHEREAS, The Beijing Platform for Action focuses on 12 critical  
4 areas of concern and envisions a world where each woman and girl can  
5 exercise her choices, such as participating in politics, getting an  
6 education, having an income, and living in societies free from  
7 violence and discrimination; and

8 WHEREAS, At the 1995 Fourth World Conference on Women, the global  
9 call was to end all forms of violence against women and girls by  
10 highlighting violence against women as one of the 12 critical areas  
11 of concern; and

12 WHEREAS, In 2015, International Women's Day, celebrated globally  
13 on March 8th, will highlight the Beijing Declaration and Platform for  
14 Action, a historic roadmap signed by 189 governments 20 years ago  
15 that sets the agenda for realizing women's rights; and

16 WHEREAS, The growing international women's movement, which has  
17 been strengthened by four global United Nations women's conferences,  
18 has helped make the commemoration a rallying point to build support  
19 for women's rights and participation in the political and economic  
20 arenas; and

21 WHEREAS, This is the time to uphold women's achievements,  
22 recognize challenges, and focus greater attention on women's rights  
23 and gender equality to mobilize all people to do their part; and

24 WHEREAS, International Women's Day is a time to reflect on  
25 progress made, to call for change, and to celebrate acts of courage  
26 and determination by ordinary women who have played an extraordinary  
27 role in the history of their countries and communities; and

28 WHEREAS, From the early 1970s until the Fourth World Conference  
29 on Women in 1995, and now today, women have made progress in  
30 achieving the full privileges and responsibilities of leadership in  
31 Washington State;

32 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Washington State Senate  
33 celebrate the achievements of women in history and recognize the  
34 importance of Washington State women's participation in the Beijing  
35 12 critical areas of concerns, which call for greater equality,  
36 justice, and fairness.

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