

**Second Regular Session
Seventieth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO**

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. R16-1119.01 Ashley Zimmerman x2291

SJR16-023

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Roberts and Todd,

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Lawrence and Ginal,

Senate Committees

House Committees

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 16-023

101 **CONCERNING THE RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL WOMEN'S HISTORY**
102 **MONTH, AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, DESIGNATING**
103 **MARCH AS COLORADO WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH.**

1 WHEREAS, American women of every race, class, and ethnic
2 background have made historic contributions to the growth and strength
3 of our nation in countless recorded and unrecorded ways, especially in the
4 areas of political and social change; and

5 WHEREAS, The United States boasts a rich history of women
6 whose vast and courageous achievements speak to the sense of excellence
7 and potential shared by all Americans; and

8 WHEREAS, Our country would not be where it is without the
9 strength, bravery, insight, and persistence of the women who have come

*Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.
Capital letters indicate new material to be added to existing statute.
Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.*

1 before us; and

2 WHEREAS, American women have played and continue to play
3 a critical economic, cultural, political, and social role in every sphere of
4 the life of the nation by constituting a significant portion of the labor
5 force, working inside and outside of the home as everything from
6 educators to astronauts; and

7 WHEREAS, American women have been leaders, not only in
8 securing their own rights of suffrage and equal opportunity, but also in
9 the abolitionist movement, the emancipation movement, the industrial
10 labor movement, the civil rights movement, and other movements that
11 create a more fair and just society for all; and

12 WHEREAS, Women have not only played a critical economic,
13 cultural, and social role in our society, but women have also permanently
14 changed the face of American government and politics; and

15 WHEREAS, In 1893, Colorado was the first state to give women
16 the right to vote through popular vote, and a year later Colorado was the
17 first state to elect women to the state legislature; and

18 WHEREAS, The first women elected to the Colorado General
19 Assembly in 1894 were Clara Cressingham and Frances S. Klock, both
20 from Arapahoe County, and Carrie C. Holly from Pueblo County, and
21 Carrie C. Holly has the distinction of being the first woman in United
22 States history to initiate and get a bill passed; and

23 WHEREAS, More than 200 women have served in the General
24 Assembly since 1913, including Helen R. Robinson, who became the first
25 woman to serve in the Colorado Senate, and more than 30 of those
26 women have served in both the House of Representatives and the Senate;
27 and

28 WHEREAS, Today, women legislators play a vital role in
29 addressing difficult social and economic issues and helping our country
30 and the state of Colorado prepare for the future; and

31 WHEREAS, Colorado again this year has the highest percentage
32 of women serving in a state legislature at 42%, while the national
33 percentage of women state legislators is 24.6%; and

1 WHEREAS, Colorado currently has 42 women serving in the
2 General Assembly, which is the largest number of women in the
3 legislature in Colorado's history; and

4 WHEREAS, Such contributions and leadership in areas that help
5 women improve their lives and the lives of those around them led the
6 United Nations, in 1975, to designate March 8 as International Women's
7 Day and led the United States Congress, in 1987, to designate the month
8 of March as National Women's History Month; now, therefore,

9 *Be It Resolved by the Senate of the Seventieth General Assembly*
10 *of the State of Colorado, the House of Representatives concurring herein:*

11 That we, the members of the Seventieth General Assembly, hereby
12 declare the month of March 2016 to be Colorado Women's History Month
13 in recognition of the struggles, accomplishments, and contributions of
14 American women throughout history.

15 *Be It Further Resolved*, That copies of this Joint Resolution be sent
16 to each member of Colorado's congressional delegation, Governor John
17 Hickenlooper, Lieutenant Governor Joe Garcia, Secretary of State Wayne
18 Williams, State Treasurer Walker Stapleton, and Attorney General
19 Cynthia Coffman.