

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 239

Reps. Lasinski, Hood, Gay-Dagnogo, Yancey, Pohutsky, Guerra, Clemente, Bolden, Manoogian, Brenda Carter, Kennedy, Coleman, Witwer, Cynthia Johnson, Garrett, Brixie, Kuppa, Cambensy, Stone, Anthony, Hope, Greig, Koleszar, Whitsett, Camilleri, Cherry, Love, Garza, Hoadley, Rabhi, Sabo, Shannon, Sowerby, Warren, Wittenberg and Yaroch offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to declare March 8, 2020, as International
2 Women's Day in the state of Michigan.

3 Whereas, March 8, 2020, marks the 109th anniversary of the
4 celebration of International Women's Day. Originally called
5 International Working Women's Day, it is celebrated on March 8 of
6 every year; and

7 Whereas, International Women's Day is a global day celebrating



1 the economic, political, and social achievements of women in the
2 past, present, and future. It is a day when women are recognized
3 for their achievements, regardless of divisions, whether national,
4 ethnic, linguistic, cultural, economic, or political. It is an
5 occasion for looking back on past struggles and accomplishments
6 and, more importantly, for looking ahead to the untapped potential
7 and opportunities that await future generations of women; and

8 Whereas, In different regions the focus of the celebrations
9 ranges from general celebration of respect, appreciation, and love
10 towards women to a celebration for women's economic, political, and
11 social achievements; and

12 Whereas, The earliest Women's Day observance was held in 1909
13 in New York and was organized in remembrance of the strike of the
14 International Ladies' Garment Workers Union. At the second
15 International Women's Conference in 1910, the first International
16 Women's Day was officially established to promote equal rights,
17 including suffrage, for women. The following year, International
18 Women's Day was marked by over a million people in Austria,
19 Denmark, Germany, and Switzerland. The efforts of early European
20 pioneers led to women gaining the right to vote and to hold public
21 office and the establishment of many early prohibitions against
22 employment sex discrimination; and

23 Whereas, In 1975, during the United Nations (UN) International
24 Year for Women, the UN held its first official celebration of
25 International Women's Day. Two years later, in December 1977, the
26 General Assembly adopted a resolution proclaiming a United Nations
27 Day for Women's Rights and International Peace to be observed by
28 member states. In adopting this resolution, the General Assembly
29 recognized the role of women in peace efforts and development and

1 urged an end to discrimination and an increase of support for
2 women's full and equal participation; and

3 Whereas, Beginning in 1996, International Women's Day
4 organizers began adopting a theme to each year's celebrations that
5 reinforces its commitment to women's rights and world peace.
6 Successful campaigns centered on such themes as "Celebrating the
7 Past, Planning for the Future" (1996) and "Women in Decision-
8 Making" (2006); and

9 Whereas, Presidents of the United States have consecutively
10 declared March to be Women's History Month since 1988 after the
11 National Women's History Project petitioned the United States
12 Congress in 1987 for recognition of Women's History Month, and have
13 since announced the 2020 theme of "Valiant Women of the Vote"; and

14 Whereas, On the occasion of 2010 International Women's Day,
15 the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) drew attention
16 to the hardships displaced women endure by spreading awareness of
17 the displacement of populations as one of the gravest consequences
18 of today's armed conflicts; and

19 Whereas, There are more than 3.7 billion women in the world
20 today. Women around the world participate in the political, social,
21 and economic life of their communities, play a critical role in
22 providing and caring for their families, contribute substantially
23 to the growth of economies, and, as both farmers and caregivers,
24 play an important role in advancing food security for their
25 communities; and

26 Whereas, The advancement of women is a public policy priority
27 for our country and the state of Michigan and the ability of women
28 to realize their full potential is critical to the ability of a
29 country and state to achieve strong and lasting economic growth and

1 social stability; and

2 Whereas, According to the International Monetary Fund,
3 “focusing on the needs and empowerment of women is one of the keys
4 to human development” and according to the 2012 World Economic
5 Forum Global Gender Gap Report, “reducing gender inequality
6 enhances productivity and economic growth”; and

7 Whereas, According to the World Bank 2012 World Development
8 Report: Gender Equality and Development, “greater gender equality
9 is also smart economics, enhancing productivity and improving other
10 development outcomes, including prospects for the next generation
11 and for the quality of societal policies and institutions”; and

12 Whereas, Although strides have been made in recent decades,
13 women around the world continue to face significant obstacles in
14 all aspects of their lives, including underrepresentation in all
15 aspects of public life, denial of basic human rights, and
16 discrimination; and

17 Whereas, Despite some achievements by individual women
18 leaders, women around the world are still vastly underrepresented
19 in high level positions and in national and local legislatures and
20 governments and, according to the Inter-Parliamentary Union, women
21 account for only 24 percent of national parliamentarians; and

22 Whereas, Women remain underrepresented in conflict prevention
23 and conflict resolution efforts, despite proven successes by women
24 in conflict-affected regions in moderating violent extremism,
25 resolving disputes through non-violent mediation and negotiation,
26 and stabilizing their societies by improving access to peace and
27 security services, institutions, and decision making venues; and

28 Whereas, According to the Food and Agriculture Organization of
29 the United Nations, the majority of women living in rural areas of

1 the developing world are heavily engaged in agricultural labor, yet
2 they receive less credit, land, agricultural inputs, and training
3 than their male counterparts; and

4 Whereas, It is imperative to alleviate violence and
5 discrimination against women and afford them every opportunity to
6 be full and productive members of their communities; and

7 Whereas, March 8 is recognized each year as International
8 Women's Day, a global day to celebrate the economic, political, and
9 social achievements of women past, present, and future, and a day
10 to recognize the obstacles that women still face in the struggle
11 for equal rights and opportunities; now, therefore, be it

12 Resolved by the House of Representatives, That the members of
13 this legislative body declare March 8, 2020, as International
14 Women's Day in the state of Michigan. We support the goals of
15 International Women's Day, recognize that the empowerment of women
16 is inextricably linked to the potential of countries to generate
17 economic growth, sustainable democracy, and inclusive security,
18 honor the women in the United States and around the world who have
19 worked throughout history to ensure that women are guaranteed
20 equality and basic human rights, reaffirm the movement's commitment
21 to ending discrimination and violence against women and girls, to
22 ensuring the safety and welfare of women and girls, and to pursuing
23 policies that guarantee the basic human rights of women and girls
24 worldwide, and encourage the people of Michigan to observe
25 International Women's Day with appropriate programs and activities.