

Assembly Joint Resolution No. 30

RESOLUTION CHAPTER 145

Assembly Joint Resolution No. 30—Relative to Women’s Equality Day.

[Filed with Secretary of State September 19, 2005.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

AJR 30, Liu. Women’s Equality Day.

This measure would memorialize the Congress and the President of the United States to uphold protections of women’s equality and to encourage all Americans to participate in the celebration of Women’s Equality Day on August 26, 2005, the 85th anniversary of the passage of the Nineteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution, which gave women the right to vote.

WHEREAS, August 26, 2005, marks the 85th anniversary of passage of the Nineteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution and is Women’s Equality Day, a day deserving of celebration and special public commendation; and

WHEREAS, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Lucretia Mott, Martha C. Wright, Mary Ann McClintock, and Jane Hunt organized the first Women’s Rights Convention in 1848 in Seneca Falls, New York, where 100 women and men from all walks of life affixed their signatures to the Declaration of Sentiments, which proclaimed that “all men and women are created equal” and are “endowed with certain inalienable rights” (including elective franchise); and

WHEREAS, Several generations of suffragists fought for the right for women to vote and few early participants in this massive civil rights movement lived to see the victory in 1920.

WHEREAS, On August 26, 1920, after a 72-year struggle, the Nineteenth Amendment was added to the United States Constitution, securing a woman’s right to vote; and

WHEREAS, In 1971, the United States Congress designated August 26 as Women’s Equality Day to commemorate the ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution and as a reminder of the need for continuing efforts for women to achieve full equality; and

WHEREAS, Since 1920, women have made tremendous gains in society, including the right to vote, the right to be free from discrimination in employment, and the right to equal access to education, including sports; and

WHEREAS, Despite these gains, women still need to make great strides in order to achieve civic, economic and social equality; and

WHEREAS, Women still earn only 76 cents to every dollar earned by a man, women disproportionately live in poverty, women are more likely to be victims of domestic violence than men, female athletes have fewer participation opportunities than male athletes, and far fewer dollars are spent on women's athletics than on men's athletics programs; and

WHEREAS, On August 26, 2005, Women's Equality Day and the anniversary of the passage of the Nineteenth Amendment, the women and men who have worked tirelessly to secure equality for women are to be commended for what they have achieved thus far and supported in their continued efforts to champion the rights of women; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Assembly and the Senate of the State of California, jointly, That the Legislature of the State of California memorializes the United States Congress and the President of the United States to do all of the following:

(1) Dedicate themselves to upholding the current legal protections of equality for women.

(2) Continue to pioneer new protections of equality for women until women achieve parity with men.

(3) Encourage all Americans to participate in the national celebration of Women's Equality Day in recognition of the 85th anniversary of the Nineteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution and its historic importance in promoting women's rights; and be it further

Resolved, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies of this resolution to the President of the United States and to all Members of the United States Congress.