

**Introduced by Senator Jackson**  
(Coauthor: Assembly Member Cristina Garcia)

August 17, 2015

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Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 84—Relative to Women’s Equality Day.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

SCR 84, as introduced, Jackson. Women’s Equality Day.

This measure would recognize August 26, 2015, as Women’s Equality Day and its historic importance to women’s rights, including the battle to attain those rights in the past, present, and future.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, The first women’s rights convention on July 19,  
2 1848, was called by Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Lucretia Mott to  
3 win equal rights for and expand the role of women in society, and  
4 it was then that the fight for women’s rights came together as an  
5 organized effort; and  
6 WHEREAS, In 1851, abolitionist and women’s rights activist  
7 Sojourner Truth delivered her renowned extemporaneous speech  
8 “Ain’t I a Woman?” at the Ohio Women’s Rights Convention in  
9 Akron; and  
10 WHEREAS, The addition of the Nineteenth Amendment to the  
11 United States Constitution on August 26, 1920, secured for women  
12 the right to vote; and  
13 WHEREAS, The passage of the federal Civil Rights Act of 1964  
14 barred employment discrimination against women; and

1 WHEREAS, The enactment of Title IX of the federal Education  
2 Amendments of 1972 guaranteed equal opportunity for women in  
3 all aspects of education; and

4 WHEREAS, Many women have planned, organized, lectured,  
5 written, marched, lobbied, canvassed voters, staged parades,  
6 become candidates for political office, argued court cases, and  
7 more, in order to irrevocably change for the better the world of  
8 today's women and girls; and

9 WHEREAS, Despite the many efforts of policymakers and  
10 advocates, both women and men, toward ensuring equality for  
11 women, gender inequality persists in many areas, as evidenced by  
12 the ongoing struggle for fair pay and equal job opportunities, job  
13 training opportunities, access to child care, family friendly  
14 workplaces, and against poverty, especially among women and  
15 children; and

16 WHEREAS, Despite important steps to achieve equal access in  
17 the workplace and to educational opportunities, women face  
18 barriers in education and employment that are not experienced at  
19 the same magnitude by men, including, the presence of historical  
20 male privilege and gender bias; sex discrimination, harassment,  
21 and sexual violence in the workplace and on campus; the  
22 complications of having caregiving duties in the unpaid economy;  
23 and being undervalued for their work in the paid economy; and

24 WHEREAS, Women are critical to a strong and vibrant  
25 California economy and play a pivotal role in spurring economic  
26 growth in California; and

27 WHEREAS, Women comprise almost one-half of the workforce  
28 in our state and are primary income earners in many households;  
29 and

30 WHEREAS, The lack of affordable, quality child care and  
31 affordable housing makes it hard for women to provide safe and  
32 secure environments for their families; and

33 WHEREAS, Women's earnings are still far too low compared  
34 to men's in California, and women are disproportionately employed  
35 in jobs that pay the minimum wage; and

36 WHEREAS, Women are also disproportionately disadvantaged  
37 by the stresses of poverty and the constraints of the social services  
38 system; and

39 WHEREAS, Ensuring the economic security of all California  
40 women and their families will benefit all communities, including

1 men, children, and families who count on public policies to meet  
2 their basic needs, earn a decent living, and care for their families;  
3 and

4 WHEREAS, The women of the United States have designated  
5 August 26 as a symbol of the continued fight for equal rights; and

6 WHEREAS, The United States Congress recognizes that August  
7 26 of each year is designated as Women's Equality Day and the  
8 President of the United States annually issues a proclamation  
9 commemorating August 26, 1920, as the day when the women of  
10 the United States were first given the right to vote and recognizes  
11 that same date in 1970 when a nationwide demonstration for  
12 women's rights took place; now, therefore, be it

13 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*  
14 *thereof concurring*, That upon the anniversary of the Nineteenth  
15 Amendment to the United States Constitution, the Legislature  
16 recognizes August 26, 2015, as Women's Equality Day and its  
17 historic importance to women's rights, including the battle to attain  
18 those rights in the past, present, and future; and be it further

19 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of  
20 this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.