



HR0096

LRB101 08625 MST 56028 r

1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Illinois is a proud leader in the story of women's
3 suffrage in the United States of America; and

4 WHEREAS, The efforts of millions of American women,
5 starting in the nineteenth century, played a decisive role in
6 winning the right to vote; many of these women lived and fought
7 for suffrage in Illinois, making the Prairie State a nationwide
8 leader in the successful effort; and

9 WHEREAS, Illinois women's rights advocates included Jane
10 Addams, Frances Willard, and Ruth Hanna McCormick; and

11 WHEREAS, Jane Addams's fight for the rights of all people
12 helped her win the Nobel Peace Prize in 1931; and

13 WHEREAS, After founding the Women's Christian Temperance
14 Union (WCTU), Frances Willard was honored by her fellow
15 Illinoisans and by members of Congress by having a statue
16 placed in the national Statuary Hall in the United States
17 Capitol in Washington, D.C.; when the statue was erected in
18 1905, it made her the first woman honored among America's
19 greatest individuals; and

20 WHEREAS, After fighting successfully for women's suffrage

1 in Illinois and nationwide, Ruth Hanna McCormick herself ran
2 for an at-large seat in the U.S. House of Representatives and,
3 in 1928, became a Republican congresswoman from Illinois,
4 before becoming the first woman nominated by a major party for
5 the U.S. Senate in 1930; and

6 WHEREAS, Women like Addams, Willard, and McCormick faced
7 many opponents but fought hard and recruited other fighters to
8 help carry the torch, and, in 1913, Illinois became the first
9 state east of the Mississippi to grant women the right to vote;
10 and

11 WHEREAS, Starting in 1914, Illinois women were extended the
12 right to vote for local and countywide offices, creating a
13 strange halfway point as Prairie State election officials
14 handed short-sheet ballots to female voters that only listed
15 the races for which they were allowed to vote; and

16 WHEREAS, Organizations led by the Illinois Equal Suffrage
17 Association, headed by Chicago's Grace Wilbur Trout, demanded
18 an equal ballot for women; and

19 WHEREAS, With the entry of the United States into World War
20 I, women workers became an essential part of the war effort,
21 and many men in Illinois and nationwide recognized there was
22 not a moral case for denying women the right to an equal vote;

1 and

2 WHEREAS, In May 1919, Illinois Republican Congressman
3 James Mann sponsored the Nineteenth Amendment to the
4 Constitution of the United States, the Woman's Suffrage
5 Amendment, and persuaded his colleagues in the U.S. House and
6 Senate to send it to the states for ratification; and

7 WHEREAS, Outsider-activists, such as Grace Wilbur Trout,
8 and political insiders, such as Ruth Hanna McCormick, had
9 already prepared the Illinois General Assembly for receipt of
10 this pioneering constitutional document; and

11 WHEREAS, On June 10, 1919, Illinois lawmakers in
12 Springfield made the Land of Lincoln the first state in the
13 nation to ratify the Nineteenth Amendment to the U.S.
14 Constitution, the constitutional amendment that granted the
15 right to vote to women in all elections nationwide, including
16 federal elections for offices such as U.S. President; and

17 WHEREAS, With the help of political efforts and publicity
18 organized in press centers, such as Chicago, by activists, such
19 as Addams and Trout, and political figures, such as McCormick,
20 the Nineteenth Amendment was ratified nationwide in less than
21 eighteen months; this made it possible for American women to
22 vote for President in the election of 1920 and, again, in every

1 election since; and

2 WHEREAS, Illinois remembers the work carried out by
3 fighters for women's votes one hundred years ago; therefore, be
4 it

5 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
6 HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
7 we commemorate the approaching 100th anniversary on June 10,
8 2019, of the ratification by the State of Illinois of the
9 Nineteenth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States;
10 and be it further

11 RESOLVED, That we remember in this commemoration the hopes
12 and dreams of the hundreds of thousands of Illinois women of
13 all political parties who organized themselves, from the 1870s
14 into the 1910s, into the half-century-long effort to win the
15 right to vote in America; and be it further

16 RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be presented to
17 the Jane Addams Hull-House Museum in Chicago, to the Frances
18 Willard House Museum and Archives in Evanston, and to the
19 Robert R. McCormick Foundation/Cantigny Park in Wheaton in
20 commemoration and observance of the differences between, and
21 the united desires of, the pioneer fighters for women's
22 suffrage in Illinois.