

**No. R-128. House concurrent resolution designating March as Women’s History Month in Vermont.**

(H.C.R.92)

Offered by: Representatives Burke of Brattleboro, Batchelor of Derby, Krowinski of Burlington, Devereux of Mount Holly, Jerman of Essex, Berry of Manchester, Buxton of Tunbridge, Carr of Brandon, Chesnut-Tangerman of Middletown Springs, Clarkson of Woodstock, Dakin of Colchester, Dickinson of St. Albans Town, Eastman of Orwell, Evans of Essex, French of Randolph, Gonzalez of Winooski, Haas of Rochester, Johnson of South Hero, Lippert of Hinesburg, Long of Newfane, Lucke of Hartford, Manwaring of Wilmington, McFaun of Barre Town, Morrissey of Bennington, Potter of Clarendon, Pugh of South Burlington, Rachelson of Burlington, Russell of Rutland City, Savage of Swanton, Sharpe of Bristol, Sabilia of Dover, Stevens of Waterbury, Stuart of Brattleboro, Sweaney of Windsor, and Troiano of Stannard

Whereas, important Vermont women’s history milestones have occurred at the State House, and

Whereas, in October 1852, Townshend native Clarina Howard Nichols, a journalist and prominent advocate for women’s rights, addressed the General Assembly, proposing that women be granted greater citizenship rights, including school board suffrage, and

Whereas, although her pleading was not met with a positive response, Clarina Howard Nichols set the path for Chelsea resident Edna Beard’s election in 1920 as Vermont’s first female State representative, just three months following the adoption of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, granting women the right to vote, and

Whereas, in 1953, the House elected Consuelo Bailey as its first woman Speaker, and Vermonters selected her as the nation’s first woman Lieutenant Governor in 1954, and

Whereas, in 1984, the state’s electorate took the next step, electing Madeleine Kunin as Vermont’s first woman governor, and

Whereas, each of these pioneering political women inspired other women to seek public office or leadership roles in other fields, and

Whereas, understanding the work, passion, and brilliance of these women preserves the legacy they established, and

Whereas, in 2004, the Vermont Commission on Women established the Vermont Women’s History Project that is now under the auspices of the Vermont Historical Society, and

Whereas, on March 11, 2015, in observance of Women’s History Month, the Vermont Historical Society and the Vermont Commission on Women held a forum at which the provocative question was posed, “Do we still need women’s history?”, and

Whereas, at this forum, three esteemed historians discussed the evolving perception of women’s history during the past half century, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly designates March as Women's History Month in Vermont, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Vermont Historical Society and the Vermont Commission on Women.