

**No. R-286. Joint resolution supporting the establishment of the National Women's History Museum in Washington, D.C.**

(J.R.H.21)

Offered by: Representatives Ram of Burlington, Campion of Bennington, Christie of Hartford, Clarkson of Woodstock, Courcelle of Rutland City, Dakin of Chester, Ellis of Waterbury, Evans of Essex, French of Randolph, Heath of Westford, Johnson of South Hero, Keenan of St. Albans City, Kupersmith of South Burlington, Lenes of Shelburne, Lorber of Burlington, Macaig of Williston, Malcolm of Pawlet, Marek of Newfane, Martin of Wolcott, Miller of Shaftsbury, Mook of Bennington, Mrowicki of Putney, O'Brien of Richmond, O'Sullivan of Burlington, South of St. Johnsbury, Till of Jericho, Toll of Danville, Townsend of Randolph, Waite-Simpson of Essex, Webb of Shelburne and Yantachka of Charlotte

Whereas, in 1987, Congress declared March to serve as "Women's History Month" to acknowledge the important role women have played in shaping America, and

Whereas, although women constitute a majority of the nation's population, their achievements and contributions are underrepresented in museums and memorials, and

Whereas, only 10 percent of the people identified in a recent survey of 18 history textbooks were women, and

Whereas, in 1999, the President's Commission on the Celebration of Women in American History called for a women's history museum to be established on "The National Mall" in Washington, D.C., and

Whereas, the National Women's History Museum (NWHM), founded in 1996, is a nonpartisan, nonprofit, educational organization dedicated to preserving, interpreting, and celebrating the diverse historic contributions of

women and integrating the heritage of women fully into this nation's history, and

Whereas, the NWHM seeks a site on or close to the National Mall and in close proximity to the White House and the U.S. Capitol Building, and

Whereas, the NWHM has identified federally owned property for sale near the National Mall, and two congressional bills—the National Women's History Act of 2011, sponsored by Representative Maloney in the House of Representatives as H.R. 1269 and Senator Collins in the Senate as S.80, and the National Women's History Museum and Federal Facilities Consolidation Act of 2011, sponsored in the House of Representatives by Representative Mica as H.R. 2844 and in the Senate by Senator Boozman as S.1870—are currently pending in Congress, and

Whereas, there are museums dedicated to flight, postage stamps, buildings, and many other areas of interest but not to women, and yet women comprise 51 percent of the nation's population, and

Whereas, the NWHM will showcase the full history of women in the United States and the contributions they have made and continue to make in the marketplace, arts and sciences, government, entertainment, education, home, and community, and

Whereas, a coalition of 43 women's organizations representing eight million women, which includes the National Foundation for Women Legislators (NFWL), supports the efforts of the NWHM to establish a

permanent residence near the National Mall, the most prominent location for museums to be situated in the nation's capital, and

Whereas, in 1880, 40 years before universal women's suffrage was enshrined in the United States Constitution as the 19th Amendment, the Vermont General Assembly granted tax-paying women the right to vote in and hold office in school district elections, and

Whereas, in 1917, Vermont became the first New England state to grant women the right to vote in municipal elections, and

Whereas, women have played an important role in Vermont state government, having served as governor, lieutenant governor (Vermont elected the first female lieutenant governor in the United States), secretary of state, and state treasurer, and

Whereas, in 2011, Vermont has one of the highest percentages of women state legislators of any state in the nation, and the tradition of women legislators dates to Edna Beard, who was elected the first female state representative in 1920 and then the first female state senator in 1922, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly urges Congress to enact legislation, subject to a set of conditions, including a prohibition on the use of federal funds, authorizing the federal government to convey land near the National Mall to

the National Women's History Museum for the purpose of constructing a museum chronicling the history of women in American life, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Vermont Congressional Delegation.