

No. R-516. House concurrent resolution honoring the American Association of University Women of Vermont for its advancement of equity for women.

(H.C.R.362)

Offered by: Representatives Botzow of Pownal, Baser of Bristol, Berry of Manchester, Browning of Arlington, Burke of Brattleboro, Corcoran of Bennington, Eastman of Orwell, Fields of Bennington, Jewett of Ripton, Komline of Dorset, Lanpher of Vergennes, Long of Newfane, Masland of Thetford, Miller of Shaftsbury, Morris of Bennington, Morrissey of Bennington, Mrowicki of Putney, Nuovo of Middlebury, O'Brien of Richmond, Potter of Clarendon, Sharpe of Bristol, Sheldon of Middlebury, Sibia of Dover, Smith of New Haven, Stuart of Brattleboro, Toleno of Brattleboro, and Van Wyck of Ferrisburgh

Offered by: Senators Ayer, Balint, Bray, Campion, Sears, and White

Whereas, the American Association of University Women (AAUW) was established in 1881 to advance equity for women and girls, and

Whereas, Vermont women established AAUW branches in Middlebury in 1922 and in Bennington and Brattleboro in 1926, and

Whereas, the AAUW of Vermont (Vermont AAUW) identified educational deficiencies at Vermont's 1,100 one- and two-room schoolhouses and embarked on a major project to improve the curriculum and teaching at these schools, and

Whereas, the organization funded scholarships for teachers, provided maps and teaching materials to individual schools, and promoted legislation that established a ranking system of standard and superior schools, and

Whereas, satisfying the requirements to earn one of these rankings became a source of local pride and prompted greater support for town schools, and

Whereas, more recently, Vermont AAUW members were active participants in the drafting and passage of a revised gender-neutral Vermont Constitution, and

Whereas, Vermont AAUW has advocated for pay equity through legislation and litigation, and

Whereas, through the national AAUW, Vermont members have also been supportive of plaintiffs in court cases fighting sexual assault of women in the military, and

Whereas, Vermont AAUW, whose members include both women and men, continues the organization's original mission through the Bennington branch's scholarship fund for nontraditional female students attending the Community College of Vermont, and the Middlebury branch's pooling of its scholarship money with other AAUW branches' funds to support doctoral candidates in nontraditional fields for women, and

Whereas, 2016 marks the 90th anniversary of Vermont AAUW in Bennington and Brattleboro and 94 years since its formation in Middlebury, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly honors the American Association of University Women of Vermont for its advancement of equity for women, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the national AAUW headquarters and to each of the three Vermont branches.