

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 634 Session of 2012

INTRODUCED BY MANN, BISHOP, K. BOYLE, BRENNAN, BROOKS, BROWNLEE, BUXTON, CALTAGIRONE, CLYMER, P. COSTA, CREIGHTON, DALEY, DAVIS, DAY, DEASY, DELOZIER, DIGIROLAMO, DONATUCCI, EVERETT, FABRIZIO, FLECK, FRANKEL, FREEMAN, GEIST, GEORGE, GIBBONS, GILLEN, GINGRICH, GOODMAN, GRELL, GROVE, HAHN, HARHART, HENNESSEY, HESS, JOSEPHS, KAUFFMAN, W. KELLER, KIRKLAND, KORTZ, KULA, LONGIETTI, MAHONEY, MAJOR, MALONEY, MATZIE, MILLARD, MIRABITO, MOUL, MURT, M. O'BRIEN, O'NEILL, PARKER, PASHINSKI, PICKETT, PRESTON, READSHAW, ROCK, ROEBUCK, ROSS, SANTARSIERO, SANTONI, SCAVELLO, CULVER, SCHRODER, M. SMITH, SONNEY, SWANGER, THOMAS, TOEPEL, TOOIL, VEREB, VULAKOVICH, WATERS, WATSON, WHEATLEY AND YOUNGBLOOD, MARCH 26, 2012

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35, MARCH 26, 2012

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the month of March 2012 as "National Women's History
2 Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, After the American Revolution, the notion of
4 education as a safeguard for democracy created opportunities for
5 girls to gain only a basic education; and

6 WHEREAS, Pioneers of secondary education for young women
7 faced arguments from physicians and others who claimed either
8 that females were incapable of intellectual development equal to
9 men or that they would be harmed by striving for it; and

10 WHEREAS, Emma Hart Willard was born in 1787 into a
11 postrevolutionary America that did not value the schooling of
12 girls, but she became a pioneering reformer of women's education

1 and a strong advocate for education for young women; and

2 WHEREAS, Emma Hart Willard, in her 1819 Plan for Improving
3 Female Education, noted with derision the focus of women's
4 "education" on fostering the display of youth and beauty, and
5 she asserted that women are "the companions, not the satellites
6 of men" - "primary existences" whose education must prepare them
7 to be full partners in life's journey; and

8 WHEREAS, Charlotte Forten Grimké was born in Philadelphia in
9 1837 to an affluent and educated African-American family who
10 championed numerous civil rights organizations; and

11 WHEREAS, In the aftermath of the Civil War, Charlotte Forten
12 Grimké went to South Carolina to help educate liberated slaves;
13 and

14 WHEREAS, Charlotte Forten Grimké is remembered as a scholar,
15 teacher, abolitionist and crusader for education; and

16 WHEREAS, Annie Sullivan was born in 1866 to poor, illiterate,
17 Irish immigrant parents and was nearly blind from an untreated
18 eye infection; and

19 WHEREAS, Because of Annie Sullivan's disability, she was
20 routinely denied access to education, and her life was
21 transformed when she was allowed to go to school; and

22 WHEREAS, Annie Sullivan, having learned to overcome her
23 disability, successfully taught Helen Keller to transcend her
24 disabilities in an effort to learn and became a pioneer in the
25 education of students with disabilities; and

26 WHEREAS, While Harvard University, founded in 1636, was the
27 first college chartered in America, nearly two centuries would
28 pass before the founding of the first college to admit women,
29 Oberlin College, which was chartered in 1833; and

30 WHEREAS, Harvard University opened Radcliffe College as an

1 "annex" for women in 1879 rather than admit women to the men's
2 college; and

3 WHEREAS, Single-sex education remained the elite norm in the
4 United States until the early 1970s; and

5 WHEREAS, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, passed
6 in 1972 and implemented in 1977, prohibits gender discrimination
7 by federally funded institutions; and

8 WHEREAS, The enactment of Title IX is responsible for women's
9 fuller participation in all aspects of education, from
10 scholarships, to facilities, to classes formerly closed to
11 women; and

12 WHEREAS, The equal opportunity to learn, taken for granted by
13 most young women today, owes much to the enactment of Title IX;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, The commitment of women to educational equality
16 throughout the entirety of academia has resulted in the
17 ascension of women in politics and government; and

18 WHEREAS, Crystal Bird Fauset, who helped establish the
19 Swarthmore College Institute of Race Relations, became the first
20 African-American woman to be elected to the Pennsylvania House
21 of Representatives, at the time representing Philadelphia's 18th
22 Legislative District; and

23 WHEREAS, Currently, 72 women hold statewide executive offices
24 nationwide; and

25 WHEREAS, Currently, 1,745 women hold seats in state
26 legislatures nationwide; and

27 WHEREAS, The year 2012 marks the 32nd anniversary of the
28 National Women's History Project; and

29 WHEREAS, The year 2012 also marks the 40th anniversary of the
30 enactment of Title IX; and

1 WHEREAS, The National Women's History Project began with a
2 proclamation by President Jimmy Carter that declared the week of
3 March 8, 1980, as the first "National Women's History Week"; and

4 WHEREAS, The recognition of March as "Women's History Month"
5 highlights the numerous contributions of women across this
6 Commonwealth and our nation who helped create educational
7 equality and a more fair and just society for all people;
8 therefore be it

9 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize March
10 2012 as "National Women's History Month" in Pennsylvania and
11 invite the women, men and children of this Commonwealth to
12 continue to explore the many roles women played and continue to
13 play to secure educational equality for all, to explore the
14 contributions of women to help empower the entire Commonwealth
15 and the nation and to celebrate "National Women's History Month"
16 in 2012 with the theme of "Women's Education - Women's
17 Empowerment."