

Senate Resolution 103 - Introduced

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 103

BY BROWN, COURNOYER, FEENSTRA, BEHN, SHIPLEY,
MILLER-MEEKS, SCHNEIDER, SINCLAIR, PETERSEN,
T. TAYLOR, GIDDENS, BOLKCOM, RAGAN, JOCHUM,
BISIGNANO, BOULTON, LYKAM, R. TAYLOR, J. SMITH,
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1 A Resolution celebrating July 2, 2019, as the 100th
2 anniversary of the State of Iowa ratifying
3 the Nineteenth Amendment to the United States
4 Constitution.

5 WHEREAS, the fight for women's suffrage, from the
6 first women's convention to enfranchisement, lasted 72
7 years, with women from all walks of life, political
8 views, and demographic backgrounds asking for the right
9 to voice their opinions at the polls; and

10 WHEREAS, the first women's rights convention
11 was held in Seneca Falls, New York, in 1848, where
12 Elizabeth Cady Stanton read "The Declaration of
13 Sentiments", which set the agenda for women's
14 activism; and

15 WHEREAS, Sojourner Truth fought for African American
16 women's right to vote at a women's rights convention
17 in Akron, Ohio, in 1851, delivering her famous speech
18 "Ain't I a Woman?"; and

19 WHEREAS, Susan B. Anthony cast her ballot for United
20 States presidential candidate Ulysses S. Grant and was
21 arrested and tried in Rochester, New York, in 1872; and

22 WHEREAS, in 1894, Iowa women gained the right to
23 vote on ballot questions regarding bond or tax issues,

1 but continued to be denied the ability to vote on
2 candidates; and

3 WHEREAS, Iowa women's suffrage leader Mary Jane
4 Coggeshall was elected to serve on the board of the
5 National Woman Suffrage Association in 1895 and she
6 gave speeches at the organization's conventions in 1904
7 and 1907; and

8 WHEREAS, Council Bluffs, Iowa, was the site of a
9 women's suffrage march in 1908, one of the first in the
10 nation; and

11 WHEREAS, Carrie Chapman Catt, who grew up in Iowa,
12 led the National American Woman Suffrage Association
13 from 1900 to 1904 and 1915 to 1920 and developed and
14 implemented the "Winning Plan" to gain support from
15 legislators at the state and federal levels for women's
16 suffrage; and

17 WHEREAS, the United States Senate passed the
18 Nineteenth Amendment guaranteeing women the right to
19 vote in 1919 and states began ratification; and

20 WHEREAS, the Nineteenth Amendment was signed into
21 law by the United States Secretary of State on August
22 26, 1920; and

23 WHEREAS, the Nineteenth Amendment guaranteed the
24 right to vote to African American women in Iowa and
25 other states outside the American south; and

26 WHEREAS, 2020 is also the 55th anniversary of the
27 Voting Rights Act, which fully enfranchised African
28 American women in the American south; and

29 WHEREAS, daughters, granddaughters, and
30 great-granddaughters of the women who fought so hard to

1 vote have been making their voices heard at the polls
2 for nearly 100 years; and

3 WHEREAS, women are running for office in
4 unprecedented numbers and many current politicians,
5 both male and female, remember that they follow in the
6 footsteps of these great suffragists; NOW THEREFORE,

7 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE, That more than 100
8 years of women's suffrage is recognized in light of
9 July 2, 2019, being the 100th anniversary of the State
10 of Iowa ratifying the Nineteenth Amendment to the
11 United States Constitution.