

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 53

Reps. Scott, Neeley, Grant, Churches, Young, Pohutsky, Edwards, Miller, Paiz, Rheingans, Hill, Coffia, Hope, Steckloff, Byrnes, Brixie, Tsernoglou, Mentzer, Conlin, Stone, Morse, Hood, Dievendorf, Skaggs, MacDonell, Weiss, Witwer, Martus, Hoskins, Brenda Carter, O'Neal, Price, Rogers, Glanville, Tyrone Carter, Puri, Haadsma and Aiyash offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to declare March 8, 2023, as International
2 Women's Day in the state of Michigan.

3 Whereas, March 8, 2023, marks the 112th anniversary of the
4 celebration of International Women's Day. Originally beginning in
5 response to terrible working conditions and exploitation, 15,000
6 women took to the streets in New York protesting the terrible
7 working conditions they endured. It is celebrated on March 8 of
8 every year; and

1 Whereas, International Women's Day is a global day celebrating
2 the economic, political, and social achievements of women in the
3 past, present, and future. It is a day when women are recognized
4 for their achievements, regardless of divisions, whether national,
5 ethnic, linguistic, cultural, economic, or political. It is an
6 occasion for looking back on past struggles and accomplishments
7 and, more importantly, for looking ahead to the untapped potential
8 and opportunities that await future generations of women; and

9 Whereas, In different regions the focus of the celebrations
10 ranges from general celebration of respect, appreciation, and love
11 towards women to a celebration for women's economic, political, and
12 social achievements; and

13 Whereas, The earliest Women's Day observance was held in 1909
14 in New York and was organized in remembrance of the strike of the
15 International Ladies' Garment Workers Union. At the second
16 International Women's Conference in 1910, the first International
17 Women's Day was officially established to promote equal rights,
18 including suffrage, for women. The following year, International
19 Women's Day was marked by over a million people in Austria,
20 Denmark, Germany, and Switzerland. The efforts of early European
21 pioneers led to women gaining the right to vote, to hold public
22 office, and the establishment of many early prohibitions against
23 employment sex discrimination; and

24 Whereas, In 1975, during the United Nations (UN) International
25 Year for Women, the UN held its first official celebration of
26 International Women's Day. Two years later, in December 1977, the
27 General Assembly adopted a resolution proclaiming a United Nations
28 Day for Women's Rights and International Peace to be observed by
29 member states. In adopting this resolution, the General Assembly

1 recognized the role of women in peace efforts and development and
2 urged an end to discrimination and an increase of support for
3 women's full and equal participation; and

4 Whereas, Beginning in 1996, International Women's Day
5 organizers began adopting a theme to each year's celebrations that
6 reinforces its commitment to women's rights and world peace; and
7 Successful campaigns centered on such themes as "Celebrating the
8 Past, Planning for the Future" (1996) and "Women in Decision-
9 Making" (2006); and

10 Whereas, Presidents of the United States have consecutively
11 declared March to be Women's History Month since 1988 after the
12 National Women's History Project petitioned the United States
13 Congress in 1987 for recognition of Women's History Month, and have
14 since announced the 2021 theme of "Valiant Women of the Vote:
15 Refusing to be Silenced continues to celebrate the Suffrage
16 Centennial"; and

17 Whereas, On the occasion of 2010 International Women's Day,
18 the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) drew attention
19 to the hardships displaced women endure by spreading awareness of
20 the displacement of populations as one of the gravest consequences
21 of today's armed conflicts; and

22 Whereas, There are more than 3.8 billion women in the world
23 today. Women around the world participate in the political, social,
24 and economic life of their communities, play a critical role in
25 providing and caring for their families, contribute substantially
26 to the growth of economies, and, as both farmers and caregivers,
27 play an important role in advancing food security for their
28 communities; and

29 Whereas, The advancement of women is a public policy priority

1 for our country and the state of Michigan. The ability of women to
2 realize their full potential is critical to the ability of a
3 country and state to achieve strong and lasting economic growth and
4 social stability; and

5 Whereas, Since 2018, the three highest governmental positions
6 held in Michigan are all occupied by women: Governor Gretchen
7 Whitmer, Attorney General Dana Nessel, and Secretary of State
8 Jocelyn Benson; and

9 Whereas, 2020 saw a historic shattering of a glass ceiling
10 with the election of Kamala Harris as the first African American
11 female Vice-President of the United States. The hope is that
12 someday soon the ultimate glass ceiling will be shattered with the
13 election of the first female U.S. President; and

14 Whereas, 2022 was another year for women's history, seeing
15 Supreme Court Justice Ketanji Brown-Jackson become the first
16 African American woman to serve on the most esteemed court in the
17 United States of America; and

18 Whereas, 2022 saw another monumental moment for the state of
19 Michigan with the appointment of former State Representative Kyra
20 Harris Bolden to the Michigan Supreme Court making her the first
21 African American woman to serve on the highest court in the state;
22 and

23 Whereas, Additionally in 2023, the state legislature saw great
24 historical leaps in women representing all kinds of diverse
25 entities, highlighted by Senator Winnie Brinks, who in 2023, became
26 the first woman to serve as the majority leader in the Michigan
27 Senate.

28 Whereas, Although strides have been made in recent decades,
29 women around the world continue to face significant obstacles in

1 all aspects of their lives, including underrepresentation in all
2 aspects of public life, denial of basic human rights, and
3 discrimination; and

4 Whereas, Despite some achievements by individual women
5 leaders, women around the world are still vastly underrepresented
6 in high level positions and in national and local legislatures and
7 governments and, according to the Inter-Parliamentary Union, women
8 account for only 25 percent of national parliamentarians; and

9 Whereas, Women remain underrepresented in conflict prevention
10 and conflict resolution efforts, despite proven successes by women
11 in conflict-affected regions in moderating violent extremism,
12 resolving disputes through non-violent mediation and negotiation,
13 and stabilizing their societies by improving access to peace and
14 security services, institutions, and decision-making venues; and

15 Whereas, March 8 is recognized each year as International
16 Women's Day, a global day to celebrate the economic, political, and
17 social achievements of women past, present, and future, and a day
18 to recognize the obstacles that women still face in the struggle
19 for equal rights and opportunities; now, therefore, be it

20 Resolved by the House of Representatives, That the members of
21 this legislative body declare March 8, 2023, as International
22 Women's Day in the state of Michigan. We support the goals of
23 International Women's Day, recognize that the empowerment of women
24 is inextricably linked to the potential of countries to generate
25 economic growth, sustainable democracy, and inclusive security,
26 honor the women in the United States and around the world who have
27 worked throughout history to ensure that women are guaranteed
28 equality and basic human rights, reaffirm the movement's commitment
29 to ending discrimination and violence against women and girls, to

- 1 ensuring the safety and welfare of women and girls, and to pursuing
- 2 policies that guarantee the basic human rights of women and girls
- 3 worldwide, and encourage the people of Michigan to observe
- 4 International Women's Day with appropriate programs and activities.