

Public Law 109–49
109th Congress

Joint Resolution

Expressing the sense of Congress with respect to the women suffragists who fought for and won the right of women to vote in the United States.

Aug. 2, 2005

[H.J. Res. 59]

Whereas one of the first public appeals for women’s suffrage came in 1848 when Lucretia Mott and Elizabeth Cady Stanton called a women’s rights convention in Seneca Falls, New York, on July 19, 1848;

Lucretia Mott.
Elizabeth Cady
Stanton.

Whereas Sojourner Truth gave her famous speech titled “Ain’t I a Woman?” at the 1851 Women’s Rights Convention in Akron, Ohio;

Sojourner Truth.

Whereas in 1869, suffragists formed two national organizations to work for the right to vote: the National Woman Suffrage Association and the American Woman Suffrage Association;

National Woman
Suffrage
Association.
American
Woman Suffrage
Association.

Whereas these two organizations united in 1890 to form the National American Woman Suffrage Association;

Whereas in 1872, Susan B. Anthony and a group of women voted in the presidential election in Rochester, New York;

Susan B.
Anthony.

Whereas she was arrested and fined for voting illegally;

Whereas at her trial, which attracted nationwide attention, she made a speech that ended with the slogan “Resistance to Tyranny Is Obedience to God”;

Whereas on January 25, 1887, the United States Senate voted on women’s suffrage for the first time;

Whereas during the early 1900s, a new generation of leaders joined the women’s suffrage movement, including Carrie Chapman Catt, Maud Wood Park, Lucy Burns, Alice Paul, and Harriot E. Blatch;

Carrie Chapman
Catt.
Maud Wood
Park.

Whereas women’s suffrage leaders devoted most of their efforts to marches, picketing, and other active forms of protest;

Lucy Burns.
Alice Paul.
Harriot E.
Blatch.

Whereas Alice Paul and others chained themselves to the White House fence;

Whereas the suffragists were often arrested and sent to jail, where many of them went on hunger strikes;

Whereas almost 5,000 people paraded for women’s suffrage up Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington, DC; and

Whereas on August 26, 1920, the 19th Amendment to the United States Constitution granted women in the United States the right to vote: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That it is the sense of Congress that women suffragists should be revered and

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celebrated for working to ensure the right of women to vote in the United States.

Approved August 2, 2005.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY—H.J. Res. 59:

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, Vol. 151 (2005):

July 25, considered and passed House.

July 28, considered and passed Senate.

