

Rep. Kowall offered the following resolution:

House Resolution No. 224.

A resolution to declare March 2012 as Women's History Month in the state of Michigan.

Whereas, Michigan women of every race, class, and ethnic background have made historic contributions to the growth and strength of Michigan in countless recorded and unrecorded ways; and

Whereas, Michigan women have played and continue to play a critical economic, cultural, and social role in every sphere of the life of Michigan by constituting a significant portion of the labor force working inside and outside of the home; and

Whereas, Accomplished women in Michigan such as Cora Reynolds Anderson, Lorraine Beebe, Cora Mae Brown, Anna Clemenc, Mary Stallings Coleman, Betty Ford, Martha Griffiths, Marie-Therese Guyon-Cadillac, Erma Henderson, Mildred Jeffrey, Rosa Parks, Elly Peterson, Dorothy Comstock Riley, Anna Howard Shaw, Lucinda Stone, and Sojourner Truth deserve more recognition; and

Whereas, Michigan women have played a unique role throughout the history of Michigan by providing the majority of the volunteer labor force of Michigan; and

Whereas, Michigan women were particularly important in the establishment of early charitable, philanthropic, and cultural institutions in Michigan; and

Whereas, Michigan women of every race, class, and ethnic background served as early leaders in the forefront of every major progressive social change movement; and

Whereas, Michigan women have been leaders, not only in securing their own rights of suffrage and equal opportunity, but also in the abolitionist movement, the emancipation movement, the industrial labor movement, the civil rights movement, the peace movement, and other movements which created a more fair and just society for all; and

Whereas, The population of Michigan is fifty-one percent women, the percentage of women legislators in the Michigan House of Representatives is twenty-five percent, the percentage of women legislators in the Michigan Senate is eleven percent ; and

Whereas, Despite these contributions, the role of Michigan women in history has been consistently overlooked and undervalued, in the literature, teaching and study of Michigan history; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives, That the members of this legislative body declare March 2012 as Women's History Month in the state of Michigan.