

## SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 59

Senators Brinks, Bayer, Santana, Polehanki, McMorrow, Bullock, Alexander, Victory, Runestad, Bizon, MacDonald, McBroom, Bumstead, Lucido, Schmidt, Zorn, Geiss, Wojno, Ananich, McCann, Irwin, Moss, Outman, Theis, Johnson, Hertel, Hollier, MacGregor, Barrett, Shirkey, Horn, Daley and VanderWall offered the following resolution:

1           A resolution to commemorate June 10, 2019, as the 100th  
2 anniversary of Michigan's ratification of the 19th Amendment.

3           Whereas, Michigan was the one of the first three states to  
4 ratify the 19th Amendment, to provide suffrage to women; and

5           Whereas, The introduction, passage, and ultimate ratification  
6 of the 19th Amendment were the culmination of decades of work and  
7 struggle by advocates; and

8           Whereas, This tireless advocacy began in Michigan in 1846 when

1 a woman named Ernestine Rose spoke to the Michigan legislature  
2 about the need for women's suffrage; and

3       Whereas, Organized efforts to advocate for a vote on women's  
4 suffrage began with a petition drive in 1855; and

5       Whereas, By 1866, the Michigan legislature considered its  
6 first bill to extend suffrage to women, but the measure was  
7 defeated by a single vote; and

8       Whereas, Over the next fifty years, proposals to grant women  
9 the right to vote were considered numerous times by the legislature  
10 and Michigan voters, but each time the measures came up short; and

11       Whereas, Leading these campaigns were organizations, including  
12 the Michigan State Suffrage Association and the Michigan Equal  
13 Suffrage Association, who held rallies and worked to educate  
14 others; and

15       Whereas, Women from across Michigan with diverse backgrounds  
16 and political views persisted in their quest, persevering in the  
17 face of resistance; and

18       Whereas, These Michigan women played an instrumental role in  
19 achieving women's suffrage both in Michigan and across the country;  
20 and

21       Whereas, It took male allies to support women in their  
22 endeavor to vote, for it was sons, husbands, and fathers who  
23 ultimately heard the calls of women and took this historic vote on  
24 June 10, 1919; and

25       Whereas, In August of the following year, the 19th Amendment  
26 was ratified by three-fourths of the states and officially became  
27 part of the Constitution of the United States; and

28       Whereas, We thank the decades-long effort by women's rights  
29 activists, the daughters, granddaughters, and great-granddaughters

1 of the women who fought so hard to vote, and made their voices  
2 heard at the polls for nearly 100 years; and

3       Whereas, Most of the women who began asking for the right to  
4 vote never lived to see the enfranchisement of women; and

5       Whereas, Women are now running for elected office in  
6 unprecedented numbers, following in the footsteps of these great  
7 suffragists; and

8       Whereas, We honor those who have championed the movement to  
9 achieve economic, social, and political equality for women in the  
10 state of Michigan; now, therefore be it

11       Resolved by the Senate, That the members of this legislative  
12 body commemorate June 10, 2019, as the 100th anniversary of  
13 Michigan's ratification of the 19th Amendment; and be it further

14       Resolved, That the Senate reaffirms Michigan's commitment to  
15 empowering and uplifting the voices of women across our great  
16 state.