

2026 -- H 8223

LC003524

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2026

HOUSE RESOLUTION

PROCLAIMING MARCH OF 2026, TO BE "WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH" IN THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

Introduced By: Representatives Cotter, Carson, Spears, McGaw, Caldwell, Boylan, Speakman, Chippendale, Shekarchi, and Blazejewski

Date Introduced: March 03, 2026

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, The year 2026 marks the 39th annual celebration of National Women's
2 History Month; and

3 WHEREAS, During March 6-12 of 1978, the very first unofficial "National Women's
4 History Week" was celebrated in Santa Rosa, California, by the Sonoma County Commission on
5 the Status of Women's Education Task Force, including International Women's Day on March
6 8th; and

7 WHEREAS, On July 14-29, 1979, Nancy Rose Foye-Cox, now of Richmond, Rhode
8 Island, and Deborah N. Pearlman, Ph.D, now of Providence, were two of 52 participants in the
9 "Summer Institute in Women's History" at Sarah Lawrence College in Bronxville, New York,
10 representing 37 national women's organizations, who called for the first ever National Women's
11 History Week in 1980, and all participants were also National Women's Month national co-
12 founders in 1987; and

13 WHEREAS, On February 28, 1980, President Jimmy Carter signed the very first
14 "National Women's History Week" Proclamation for the Week of March 2-8, 1980; and

15 WHEREAS, On March 12, 1987, the United States Senate and House of Representatives
16 passed a Joint Resolution, designating the first official "Women's History Month"; and

17 WHEREAS, On March 16, 1987, President Ronald Reagan signed and issued the very
18 first Presidential Proclamation designating March as "Women's History Month"; and

19 WHEREAS, Women of every race, class, and ethnic background have made historic

1 contributions to the growth and strength of our State and Nation in countless recorded and
2 unrecorded ways; and

3 WHEREAS, Women have played and continue to play critical economic, cultural, and
4 social roles in every sphere of life in Rhode Island by constituting a significant portion of the
5 labor force working inside and outside of the home; and

6 WHEREAS, Women were particularly important in the establishment of early charitable,
7 philanthropic, and cultural institutions in our State; and

8 WHEREAS, Women of every race, class, and ethnic background served as early leaders
9 in the forefront of every major social change movement and have served our country
10 courageously in all branches of the military and public safety; and

11 WHEREAS, Women have been leaders, not only in securing their own rights of suffrage
12 and equal opportunity, but also in the abolitionist movement, the emancipation movement, the
13 industrial labor movement, the civil rights movement, and especially the peace movement, which
14 creates a fairer and just society for all; and

15 WHEREAS, Despite these contributions, the role of women has been consistently
16 overlooked and undervalued, in the literature, culture, and the study of American history; and

17 WHEREAS, The National Women's History Month theme for 2026 is "Leading the
18 Change: Women Shaping a Sustainable Future." The National Women's History Alliance
19 (NWA) chose this theme to celebrate the diverse contributions of women who are leading
20 sustainability efforts across environmental, economic, educational, and social justice movements;
21 now, therefore be it

22 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island hereby
23 proclaims March of 2026, to be "Women's History Month" in recognition of the myriad
24 contributions of women throughout our history; and be it further

25 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
26 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to the Honorable President of the United States,
27 Donald Trump, the Honorable Governor of the State of Rhode Island, Daniel McKee, and the
28 Rhode Island Congressional Delegation.

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