

=====  
LC002227  
=====

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2025

SENATE RESOLUTION

RECOGNIZING MARCH 8, 2025, AS "INTERNATIONAL WOMEN’S DAY", AND THE  
MONTH OF MARCH AS "WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH", IN THE STATE OF RHODE  
ISLAND

Introduced By: Senators Urso, Ujifusa, Felag, Tikoian, LaMountain, Euer, E Morgan,  
Lawson, Rogers, and Paolino  
Date Introduced: March 04, 2025

Referred To: Recommended for Immediate Consideration

1 WHEREAS, International Women’s Day is a global observance of the social, economic,  
2 cultural and political achievements of women, marking a call to action to accelerate gender  
3 equality, and to honor the contributions of women worldwide; and

4 WHEREAS, International Women’s Day was launched in Western Europe in 1911, as a  
5 day to rally for the rights of women to work, to vote, to be trained and to hold public office, and  
6 to end discrimination against women; and

7 WHEREAS, International Women’s Day was recognized by the United Nations in 1975,  
8 and has since become an annual occasion to uplift and empower women and girls, to honor their  
9 achievements and to safeguard their futures, to promote and lobby for women’s equality and  
10 rights, and to showcase organizations that prioritize the well-being of women; and

11 WHEREAS, In 2025, we celebrate the 114th observance of International Women’s Day,  
12 adopting the annual theme “Accelerate Action,” and a call to step forward in solidarity to help  
13 accelerate equality for the 4 billion women and girls in the world, 170 million of whom comprise  
14 half the population of the United States; and

15 WHEREAS, In 2025, we continue the fight for equal pay for women in the United States,  
16 to end discrimination, violence, and oppression against women and girls worldwide, to pursue  
17 policies that protect the health and human rights of women, and to promote the participation of  
18 women in every aspect of government, business, the U.S. Military, society and community; and

19 WHEREAS, The State of Rhode Island, one of the original 13 colonies, founded on

1 principles of diversity and soul liberty, the first to declare independence from Great Britain, and  
2 the birthplace of American Industry, counts among its earliest settlers two independent woman,  
3 Mary Dyer and Anne Hutchinson, key figures in the history of religious tolerance in the New  
4 World; and,

5 WHEREAS, Prior to European contact, the land to become known as Rhode Island was  
6 home to three powerful 17th century female sachems of the Indigenous Tribes: Weetamoo of the  
7 Pocasset Wampanoag, Awashonks of the Sakonnet, and Quaiapen of the Narragansett; and,

8 WHEREAS, Throughout our history, the State of Rhode Island has been enriched by the  
9 legacies of many of its female citizens, among them:

10 (1) In the 18th century, Hannah Wilkinson Slater of Pawtucket, the wife of Samuel  
11 Slater, who was granted the first U.S. Patent awarded to a woman in the United States for her  
12 invention of 2-ply cotton sewing thread, thereby launching the thread manufacturing industry in  
13 Pawtucket, and who co-founded the first Sunday School in America, and founded a Beneficent  
14 Society for Women in Rhode Island; and

15 (2) In the 19th century, Kady Brownell of Providence, who served as color bearer under  
16 Colonel Ambrose Burnside in the 1st Rhode Island Infantry in the Civil War, participating in the  
17 First Battle of Bull Run in 1861, and reenlisting into the 5th RI Infantry at the Battle of New Bern  
18 in 1862, and who was the only female ever to receive discharge papers from the Union Army; and

19 (3) In the 20th century, Isabelle Florence Ahearn O'Neill of Woonsocket, the first woman  
20 to serve in the Rhode Island General Assembly, having been elected to the House in 1922, and  
21 the Senate in 1930, the first women to hold a leadership position in this Chamber, who  
22 championed the hiring of women in law enforcement, prohibiting gender discrimination in the  
23 teaching profession, formally recognizing women's cosmetology professions, and protecting  
24 women through the creation of life estates in the homes of their husbands; and

25 WHEREAS, The theme for 2025 Women's History Month is "Moving Forward  
26 Together! Women Educating & Inspiring Generations," which beckons us to carry forward the  
27 lessons and experiences of the women who came before us and who serve as examples of the  
28 potential of women to serve their communities with dignity, intellect and resolve, earning the  
29 respect of all citizens; and

30 WHEREAS, Women's History Month was recognized in 1987, having advanced from  
31 the original national celebration of Women's History Week, so declared by Congress in March  
32 1981; and

33 WHEREAS, The Rhode Island State Senate, with 17 women among its 38 current  
34 members, desires to carry forward these traditions, and to encourage all citizens to learn about the

1 contributions of women to the history of our state and nation, and to encourage those who seek to  
2 make their own history as leaders who chart a path forward for the betterment of all citizens; now,  
3 therefore be it

4           RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island hereby recognizes March 8,  
5 2025 as “International Women’s Day” and the month of March as “Women’s History Month” in  
6 the State of Rhode Island; and, be it further

7           RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to  
8 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to the Honorable Daniel J. McKee, Governor of  
9 the State of Rhode Island.

=====  
LC002227  
=====