

Resolution to Honor Women's History Month

Sponsored by Boyd Walker, Sandy Marks, Greg Delawie, Kathleen Burns, and Paul Friedman

Whereas, March has been designated Women's History Month¹ and is also the Month when International Women's Day takes place, and the Alexandria Democratic Committee would like to honor women and highlight the challenges women face;

Whereas, for the first time in history the United States had a women Vice President and female speaker of the House, sitting behind President Biden at the State of the Union Address;²

Whereas, in the address Biden promised clean drinking water and high-speed internet, enabling families to be safe and parents to work from home; proposed to cut the cost of childcare in half, extend the child tax credit, and urged congress to pass the equality act, the paycheck fairness act, paid leave, raising the minimum wage to \$15 an hour, and extending the Child Tax Credit;³

Whereas, President Biden has recently supported passage of the ERA by Congress and putting it in the Constitution,⁴ which would give women equality in our constitution for the first time, empowering women to get equal pay and equal protection under the law from sexual harassment and violence;

Whereas, we commend President Biden for nominating Ketanji Brown Jackson, a Court of Appeals Judge in the District of Columbia, to the US Supreme Court, someone who is eminently qualified, and will increase the number of women on the Supreme Court to the most in history; and for appointing 33 female judges to the Federal Courts, 22 of whom are minorities;⁵

Whereas, violence against women is still a major problem, causing distress, mental health concerns, and consequences throughout women's lives, we applaud President Biden on the successful negotiation of a new authorization of the Violence Against Women Act,⁶ which has passed the House and is expected to pass the Senate;

Whereas, women still struggle to achieve pay equity, known as the gender pay gap, which affects daily life, as well as lifetime earnings; women have been on the front lines

of the pandemic, as well as hurt by the struggle with school closures and because small businesses have been hurt disproportionately during the pandemic affecting female owned businesses;⁷

Whereas, women have been behind the wave of unionizing across the United States and unions can fight for fair pay, paid leave, health insurance, and other benefits; we commend women for this effort;⁸

Whereas, women around the world have had to seek refuge because of war, climate migration, or violence in their home countries;⁹ and we know that more women and children have left Ukraine because of the Russian invasion, as men have been asked to stay home and fight; and that over 800,000 have fled the country;¹⁰

Therefore, be it resolved that the Alexandria Democratic Committee honors women during Women’s History Month and all year round in recognition of their struggles and remarkable efforts; and pledges to continue to advocate for women’s equality, health, and well being now and in the future; and

Be it further resolved that the Alexandria Democratic Committee asks Senators Kaine and Warner to work with Senate colleagues to promote passage of the Violence Against Women Act as soon as possible.

¹ Commemoration began in 1978 as "Women's History day" in Sonoma County, California, and was championed by Gerda Lerner and the National Women's History Alliance to be recognized as a national week (1980) and then month (1987) in the United States, spreading internationally after that. (Women's History Month - Wikipedia)

² <https://www.npr.org/2022/03/01/1083849185/state-of-the-union-two-women-history-made>

³ "My plan will cut the cost in half for most families and help parents, including millions of women, who left the workforce during the pandemic because they couldn't afford child care, to be able to get back to work." Read Joe Biden's full 2022 State of the Union address | PBS NewsHour

⁴ Biden urges Congress to act now on Equal Rights Amendment (msn.com)

⁵ Biden has installed many women of color on lower federal courts - The Washington Post

⁶ "The original Violence Against Women Act, signed in 1994 by then-President Bill Clinton, was a landmark moment in the federal government more aggressively penalizing those convicted of domestic abuse as well as to provide legal protections for those who accuse their partners of intimate violence. President Biden, who as a senator played a leading role in passing the original legislation, said in a statement Wednesday that he was "grateful that this critical bipartisan bill is moving forward, and I look forward to Congress delivering it to my desk without delay."

<https://www.npr.org/2022/02/09/1079717258/senators-announce-a-deal-to-reauthorize-the-violence-against-women-act>

⁷ <https://www.forbes.com/sites/ashleystahl/2022/01/21/the-pandemic-and-the-gender-pay-gap-in-2022/?sh=1c8ca6ef347d>

⁸ <https://fortune.com/2021/11/23/starbucks-union-buffalo-young-women/>

⁹ <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/in-focus/women-refugees-and-migrants>

¹⁰ <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-60555472>