

Senate Resolution No. 758

**BY:** Senator STEWART-COUSINS

**MEMORIALIZING** Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim March 2017, as Women's History Month in the State of New York

**WHEREAS,** March is Women's History Month; and

**WHEREAS,** March 8th is International Women's Day; and

**WHEREAS,** Each year New York State officially sets aside time to recognize the unique contributions that women have made to New York State; and

**WHEREAS,** New York State has a distinguished history of monumental achievements in the area of women's rights; and

**WHEREAS,** In 1826, New York State opened one of the first public high schools for girls resulting in a future for women in which they were no longer confined to the home, a future in which they were educated and able to use this education to better their social and economic status; and

**WHEREAS,** In 1848 in New York, the first women's rights convention was held at Seneca Falls to secure for all women the right to vote; and

**WHEREAS,** In 1903, The Women's Trade Union League of New York was formed to represent working women, later becoming the nucleus for the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union; and

**WHEREAS,** In 1918, one year after New York guaranteed women the right to vote in all elections, the first two women, Ida Sammis and Mary Lilly, were elected to the New York State Legislature; and

**WHEREAS,** In 1967, Muriel Siebert became the first woman to own a seat on the New York Stock Exchange, opening the door for women to gain positions of greater economic power; and

**WHEREAS,** In 1968, New York State Assemblywoman Shirley Chisholm became the first black woman elected to Congress and in 1972, she ran for President of the United States, another first for black women; and

**WHEREAS,** In 1970, New York City was the site of the first Women's Strike for Equality in which 50,000 people marched for equal rights; and

**WHEREAS,** In 1983, New York State women legislators established the Legislative Women's Caucus to improve the participation of women in all areas of government, support issues that benefit women and provide a network of support for women in the State Legislature; and

**WHEREAS,** In 2009, Sonia Sotomayor was the first Hispanic Justice appointed to the United States Supreme Court; and

**WHEREAS,** In 2014, four women from New York State participated in Olympic events held in Sochi, Russia: Anneliese Cooke, Saranac Lake - Biathlon; Jamie Gruebel, Lake Placid - Bobsled, earned a Bronze medal; Erin Hamlin, Remsen - Luge, earned a Bronze medal; and Josephine Pucci, Pearl Lake - Women's Hockey, earned a Silver medal; and

**WHEREAS,** In 2015, Loretta Elizabeth Lynch was appointed as Attorney General of the United States, becoming the first African-American woman to serve in this esteemed position; and

**WHEREAS,** New York has been the home of many extraordinary women who have led society to a better future: Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony led the campaign for women's suffrage; Sojourner Truth spoke out for the abolition of slavery and for suffrage for women; and

**WHEREAS,** Carrie Chapman Catt became the first president of the League of Women Voters; Emma Willard opened the first endowed institution for the education of women; Civil War surgeon Dr. Mary E. Walker was the only woman ever awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor; Harriet Tubman was an abolitionist who led slaves to freedom by way of the Underground Railroad in the 19th century; and

**WHEREAS,** Elizabeth Blackwell and Belva Lockwood were the first women in the fields of medicine and law; pioneer birth control educator and advocate Margaret Sanger established a research center in New York City; and

**WHEREAS,** Emma Goldman founded the Free Speech League which led to the American Civil Liberties Union; humanitarian Eleanor Roosevelt served as United States Delegate to the United Nations; and

**WHEREAS,** Civil rights lawyer and New York State Senator Constance Baker Motley became the first black woman to sit on the U.S. District Court in New York, and there have been so many more known and unknown women who championed rights and opportunity for all; and

**WHEREAS,** New York State has hosted many conventions, campaigns and events of the Women's Rights Movement from the 1848 convention at Seneca Falls to the 1999 Berkshire Conference of Women Historians, which was held to improve the status of women in history and in the historical professions; and

**WHEREAS,** Today, 58 women serve in the New York State Legislature, holding leadership positions in both houses and bringing the diverse experiences of women into law and public policy, the largest class of women in the history of New York; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED,** That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim March 2017, as Women's History Month in the State of New York; and be it further

**RESOLVED,** That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor of the State of

New York, and the Legislative Women's Caucus of New York State.