

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, any official position of the City of Los Angeles with respect to legislation, rules, regulations or policies proposed to or pending before a local, state, or federal governmental body or agency must have first been adopted in the form of a Resolution by the City Council with the concurrence of the Mayor; and

WHEREAS, August 26, 2013 marks the 93rd anniversary of the passage of the Nineteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution and is Women's Equality Day, a day deserving of celebration and public commemoration; and

WHEREAS, Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Lucretia Mott organized the first Women's Rights Convention in 1848 where 100 women and men from all walks of life declared that "all men and women are created equal" and called for universal women's suffrage; and

WHEREAS, On August 26, 1920, after a 72 year struggle, the Nineteenth Amendment was added to the United States Constitution, securing a woman's right to vote; and

WHEREAS, in 1971, the United States Congress designated August 26 as Women's Equality Day to commemorate the passage of the Nineteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution and as a reminder of women's continuing efforts to achieve full equality; and

WHEREAS, Since 1920, women have made tremendous gains in society, including the right to vote, the right to be free from discrimination in employment and the right to have guaranteed equal access to education including sports; and

WHEREAS, Despite these gains, women still have great strides to make in order to be full participants in 21st century society; and

WHEREAS, the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) was first introduced in Congress in 1923 to affirm the equal application of the U.S Constitution to both women and men and the basic American value of equal protection under the law; and

WHEREAS, Between 1923 and 1972 the ERA was offered in every session of Congress, ultimately being passed by Congress in 1972 at which time it was sent to states for ratification; and

WHEREAS, Amending the U.S Constitution requires ratification by 38 states, and ultimately the ERA fell three votes short of passage; and

WHEREAS, Women still earn only 77 cents to every dollar earned by a man, women disproportionately live in poverty, women are more likely to be victims of domestic violence than men, and for every dollar spent on women's athletics programs, three dollars are spent on men's athletics programs; and



WHEREAS, On August 1, 2013 Representative Carolyn B. Maloney (D-NY) reintroduced House Joint Resolution 56 in the U.S House of Representatives proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to explicitly demand equal rights for women under the law; and

WHEREAS, The time is long overdue for a constitutional guarantee of equality between sexes; and

WHEREAS, The only way for women to achieve permanent equality in the United States is to write it into the Constitution.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that by adoption of this resolution, the members of the Los Angeles City Council urge the United States Congress and the President of United States to uphold current protections and continue to pioneer new protections of equality for women until women achieve parity with men; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED with the concurrence of the Mayor, that by adoption of this Resolution, the City of Los Angeles hereby includes in its Federal Legislative Program SUPPORT for the HJ Resolution 56 (Maloney) and any similar legislation upholding Equal Rights for Women.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the President of the United States and to the California congressional delegation.

Presented By:



NURY MARTINEZ
Councilwoman, 6th District

Seconded By:



PHIL O'CONNELL

ORIGINAL

AUG 27 2013