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(Original Signature of Member)

112TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES.

Supporting the goals of International Women's Day.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY submitted the following resolution; which was referred to
the Committee on _____

RESOLUTION

Supporting the goals of International Women's Day.

Whereas there are over 3,000,000,000 women in the world,
representing 51 percent of the world's population;

Whereas women continue to play the prominent role in caring
for families within the home as well as serving as eco-
nomic earners;

Whereas women worldwide are participating in the world of
diplomacy and politics, contributing to the growth of
economies, and improving the quality of the lives of their
families, communities, and nations;

Whereas women leaders have recently made significant
strides, including the 2010 election of Dilma Rousseff as
the first female President of Brazil, the 2009 election of

Johanna Sigurdardottir as the first female Prime Minister of Iceland, the 2007 election of Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi as the first female Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the 2006 election of Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf as the President of Liberia, the first female President in Africa's history, and the 2005 election of Angela Merkel as the first female Chancellor of Germany, who also served as the second woman to chair a G8 summit in 2007;

Whereas women account for 80 percent of the world's 70,000,000 micro-borrowers, 75 percent of the 28,000 United States loans supporting small businesses in Afghanistan are given to women, and 15 women are chief executive officers of Fortune 500 companies;

Whereas despite tremendous gains over the past 20 years, women still face political and economic obstacles, struggle for basic rights, face the threat of discrimination, and are targets of violence all over the world;

Whereas worldwide, women remain vastly underrepresented in national and local assemblies, accounting on average for less than 20 percent of the seats in parliament;

Whereas women work two-thirds of the world's working hours, produce half of the world's food, yet earn only 1 percent of the world's income and own less than 1 percent of the world's property;

Whereas 70 percent of the 1,300,000,000 people living in poverty around the world are women and children;

Whereas two-thirds of the 876,000,000 illiterate individuals worldwide are women, two-thirds of the 125,000,000 school-aged children who are not attending school worldwide are girls, and girls are less likely to complete school

than boys according to the United States Agency for International Development;

Whereas worldwide, women account for more than half of the more than 33,000,000 adults living with HIV/AIDS and HIV/AIDS is the leading cause of death and disease among women of reproductive age;

Whereas globally, nearly 1,000 women die, everyday, from childbirth and pregnancy related causes;

Whereas domestic violence causes more deaths and disabilities among women between the ages of 15 and 44 than cancer, malaria, traffic accidents, and war combined;

Whereas around the world, at least 1 out of every 3 women and girls has been beaten, coerced into sex, or abused in some other way in her lifetime;

Whereas worldwide, 140,000,000 girls and young women have been subjected to female genital mutilation, and it is estimated that 3,000,000 girls are at risk of being subjected to this practice;

Whereas illegal trafficking in women and children for forced labor, domestic servitude, or sexual exploitation involves between 1,000,000 and 2,000,000 women and children each year, of whom 50,000 are transported into the United States, according to the Congressional Research Service and the Department of State;

Whereas 75 percent of the world's 43,000,000 forcibly displaced individuals are women and children;

Whereas in times and places of conflict and war, women and girls continue to be the focus of extreme violence and intimidation and face tremendous obstacles to legal recourse and justice;

Whereas March 8 has become known as International Women's Day for the last century, and is a day on which people, often divided by ethnicity, language, culture, and income, come together to celebrate a common struggle for women's equality, justice, and peace; and

Whereas the people of the United States should be encouraged to participate in International Women's Day: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) supports the goals of International Women's
3 Day;

4 (2) recognizes and honors the women in the
5 United States and in other countries who have
6 fought and continue to struggle for equality in the
7 face of adversity;

8 (3) reaffirms its commitment to ending dis-
9 crimination and violence against women and girls, to
10 ensuring the safety and welfare of women and girls,
11 and to pursuing policies that guarantee the basic
12 human rights of women and girls both in the United
13 States and in other countries; and

14 (4) encourages the President to—

15 (A) reaffirm his commitment to pursue
16 policies to protect fundamental human rights
17 and civil liberties, particularly those of women
18 and girls; and

1 (B) issue a proclamation calling upon the
2 people of the United States to observe Inter-
3 national Women's Day with appropriate pro-
4 grams and activities.