



SR0070

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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, Pioneer and crusader Susan Brownell Anthony paved the way for the first women's movement in the United States and led that movement for more than 50 years, which culminated in the adoption of the 19th Amendment that gave women the right to vote in the United States; and

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WHEREAS, Susan B. Anthony was born on February 15, 1820 in Adams, Massachusetts to Quakers Daniel Anthony and Lucy Read Anthony, who shared a passion for social reform; and

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WHEREAS, Susan B. Anthony fought to end slavery and played an active role in the Underground Railroad; and

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WHEREAS, Along with Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Susan B. Anthony founded the National Woman Suffrage Association in 1869; they also produced The Revolution, a weekly publication that lobbied for women's rights, and a three volume History of Woman Suffrage; and

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WHEREAS, Susan B. Anthony was tireless in her efforts, giving speeches around the country to convince others to support a woman's right to vote; she took matters into her own hands in 1872 when she illegally voted in the presidential election; and

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1           WHEREAS, Susan B. Anthony was arrested and tried  
2 unsuccessfully to fight the charges; she remained determined to  
3 fight for women's suffrage and argued that "the right women  
4 needed above every other ... was the right of suffrage"; and

5           WHEREAS, Susan B. Anthony and the National Woman Suffrage  
6 Association gathered enough influence to lobby the U.S.  
7 Congress for a constitutional amendment and saw the  
8 introduction of the first women's suffrage amendment to the  
9 United States Constitution in January 1878 which stated, "The  
10 Right of citizens to vote shall not be abridged by the United  
11 States or by any state on account of sex."; and

12           WHEREAS, The women's suffrage amendment to the United  
13 States Constitution was introduced in every session of Congress  
14 for the next 41 years; and

15           WHEREAS, Susan B. Anthony died on March 13, 1906; while  
16 women still did not have the right to vote at the time of her  
17 death, her last public words were "Failure is impossible"; and

18           WHEREAS, It was not until 1920, 14 years after Susan B.  
19 Anthony's death, that the 19th Amendment to the U.S.  
20 Constitution, giving all adult women the right to vote, was  
21 passed; the House of Representatives of the Sixty-Sixth

1 Congress of the United States passed the 19th Amendment on May  
2 21, 1919, and the Senate passed the 19th Amendment two weeks  
3 later; and

4 WHEREAS, On June 10, 1919, Illinois became the first state  
5 to ratify the amendment, and, on August 18, 1920, Tennessee  
6 became the 36th state to ratify the 19th Amendment to the  
7 United States Constitution; and

8 WHEREAS, In recognition of her dedication and hard work,  
9 the U.S. Treasury Department placed Susan B. Anthony's portrait  
10 on one dollar coins in 1979, making her the first woman to be  
11 so honored; therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL  
13 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we declare February 15,  
14 2019 as Susan B. Anthony Day in the State of Illinois; and be  
15 it further

16 RESOLVED, That we recognize the importance of Susan B.  
17 Anthony's contribution to the women's suffrage movement and all  
18 that came after her; and be it further

19 RESOLVED, That we will continue to make sure that no  
20 Illinois citizen's vote will be discouraged based of race, sex,  
21 religion, or creed.