A RESOLUTION commemorating the centennial anniversary of a woman's right to vote.

WHEREAS, for more than a century following the founding of this great nation, women were denied the right to vote; and

WHEREAS, in 1837 the Kentucky General Assembly enacted legislation providing to women who were heads of households and taxpayers the right to vote on tax and school issues, making Kentucky the first state in the nation where women could engage in the electoral process; and

WHEREAS, women in Kentucky were at the forefront of the national movement to give all women the right to vote; and

WHEREAS, among these women was Mary Barr Clay and Laura Clay, daughters of famed Kentucky abolitionist Cassius Marcellus Clay. Mary Barr Clay was a fervent women's rights advocate, organized the Fayette County Equal Rights Association in Kentucky, and later served as president of the American Woman Suffrage Association; and Laura Clay headed the Kentucky Woman Suffrage Association and, at the 1920 Democratic National Convention, became the first woman to have her name placed in nomination for the presidency by a major political party; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Mary E. Britton, the first African American woman physician in Lexington, was an activist for women's right to vote; and

WHEREAS, Madeline McDowell Breckinridge, the great-granddaughter of Kentucky statesman Henry Clay, has been classified by many as the most influential Kentucky suffragist through her powerful writings; and

WHEREAS, many women, including Susan B. Anthony, were arrested and jailed, with some incarcerations subjecting protesters to deplorable conditions and forced feedings as a result of their efforts to secure the right to vote for women; and

WHEREAS, a proposed amendment to the United States Constitution that had been introduced at every session of Congress for 42 years was finally passed by the Congress
WHEREAS, this amendment was submitted to the states for ratification as the Nineteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution providing, "The rights of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex"; and

WHEREAS, on January 6, 1920, the first day of the 1920 session of the Kentucky General Assembly, Kentucky became the twenty-fourth state and one of only four southern states to ratify the Nineteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution by a margin of 72 to 25 in the House and 30 to 8 in the Senate; and

WHEREAS, on January 6, 1920, less than a month after taking office and surrounded by a large number of women suffragists, Governor Edwin P. Morrow signed the Act of the General Assembly into law; and

WHEREAS, the required thirty-sixth state ratified the Nineteenth Amendment on August 18, 1920, and, after a more than a one hundred year battle, women were given the right to vote; and

WHEREAS, while the ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment was immediately met with litigation, proceeding to the United States Supreme Court, its adoption was unanimously upheld in an opinion written by Louisville native Louis D. Brandeis; and

WHEREAS, on November 2, 1920, more than eight million women across the United States voted in elections for the first time; and

WHEREAS, the year 2020 marks the 100th anniversary of Kentucky's ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment and of women having the right to vote;

NOW, THEREFORE,

Be it resolved by the Senate of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:

⇒ Section 1. The members of the Senate hereby commend and celebrate the strong and faithful women of this Commonwealth, past and present, on the 100th anniversary of
the ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution ensuring a 
woman's right to vote; and recognize the invaluable contribution women have made and 
continue to make to promote and preserve the right to vote, and the rights of liberty and 
justice for all.

Section 2. The Clerk of the Senate is directed to transmit a copy of this 
Resolution to the Kentucky League of Women Voters, 115 South Ewing, Louisville, 
Kentucky 40206.