



State of New York

Executive Chamber

Proclamation

Whereas, throughout history, the quest for equality has been one of the most compelling causes sought by people of every nationality, race, religion, and gender – and one of the most defining moments for women in America came 102 years ago on August 26, 1920, with certification of the 19th Amendment to the United States Constitution, legalizing their inalienable right to vote; and

Whereas, New York State was an early focal point in the women's suffrage movement as the site of the first Women's Rights Convention held in 1848 in Seneca Falls, where 100 participants – 68 women and 32 men – signed the *Declaration of Sentiments* that outlined certain rights women should be given, including the right to vote; and

Whereas, nearly seven decades later, on Election Day, November 6, 1917, women in New York did secure the right to vote, helping to build momentum for the national suffrage movement and its ultimate victory with ratification of the 19th Amendment, less than three years later; and

Whereas, today women's equality has an even broader meaning and New York State remains at the forefront of the ongoing fight for equal rights and for causes affecting women in this modern age; we are proud to be a global leader for progressive thinking and fair treatment in addressing issues that impact women socially, economically, and politically through laws and other measures to ensure pay equity, to end discrimination and harassment in the workplace, to address health disparities, and to increase protections and assistance for gender-based violence survivors; and

Whereas, we have more work ahead of us in order to achieve true equality, especially as our nation responds to the immense setback caused by the Supreme Court on June 24th with its decision to end U.S. Constitutional protections for abortion rights; as long as I am Governor, New York State will protect women's rights, including the right to access reproductive health care– this includes enacting fair and just laws, challenging archaic public perceptions, and eliminating false stereotypes – so that we can ensure future generations of young women and girls will live in a world where the playing field is level; and

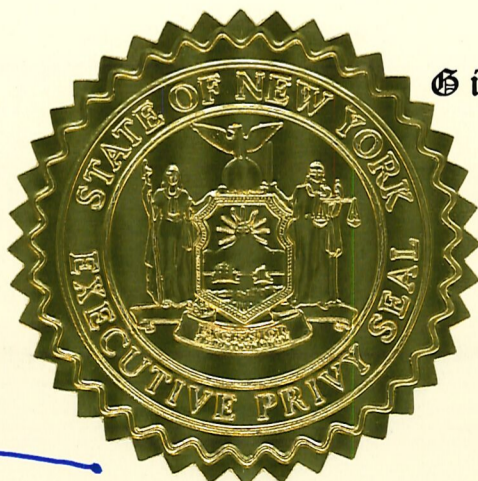
Whereas, this week marks one year since I took office as the 57th governor of our great State of New York – becoming the first woman to hold this office; as the ninth in the nation to hold this position and 45th in the history of our country, I am honored to join the distinguished ranks of other women currently serving as governors; the responsibility and significance of this role has led me on a path to fighting for equality, justice, freedom, and safety for all people and remain the top priorities that guide me each and every day; and

Whereas, the women suffragists who lit a spark for major change and the many other trailblazers who came before us continue to inspire women today who have risen to unprecedented heights of success in all professions and levels of achievement, breaking glass ceilings and reaching new horizons; here in New York State, we will always fight for our sisters – especially those who historically have been without a voice in society – and never stop working to build a better future for younger generations of women who will be tomorrow's leaders;

Now, Therefore, I, Kathy Hochul, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby proclaim August 26, 2022 as

WOMEN'S EQUALITY DAY

in the Empire State.



G i v e n under my hand and the Privy Seal of the State at the Capitol in the City of Albany on this twenty-fifth day of August in the year two thousand twenty-two.

Secretary to the Governor
Karen Persichilli Keogh

Governor