



# State of New York

## Executive Chamber

### Proclamation

**Whereas**, the Empire State is the birthplace of the women's rights movement, where the first women's rights convention was held at Seneca Falls in 1848 and where one hundred participants – 68 women and 32 men – signed a Declaration of Sentiments; and

**Whereas**, the Declaration of Sentiments, modeled after the Declaration of Independence, affirmed that “all men and women are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness; that to secure these rights governments are instituted, deriving their powers from the consent of the governed.”; and

**Whereas**, sixty-nine years later, women in New York secured the right to vote on Election Day, November 6, 1917, propelling the national suffrage movement to victory with the ratification of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment three years later, in 1920; and

**Whereas**, we honor the visionary leaders of women's suffrage in New York State – those brave heroines who helped forge the path to voting equality for women – from Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and Matilda Joslyn Gage who were among the earliest organizers and strategists, to Carrie Lane Chapman Catt, president of the National American Woman Suffrage Association who led the fight for the vote through state-by-state campaigns; and

**Whereas**, African-American women, including Sojourner Truth and Mary Burnett Talbert, facing discrimination on the basis of both gender and race, were powerful voices for women's rights and civil rights; and

**Whereas**, New Yorkers take pride in our history of advancing equal rights, we celebrate this centennial by reaffirming New York State's commitment to achieving full equality for women in every sphere: social, economic, and political; and

**Whereas**, women remain underrepresented in government, both at the state level where women remain only 27 percent of the legislature, and at the national level, where women remain only 19 percent of Congress; and

**Whereas**, the women's rights movement today, as demonstrated by the marches that took place across the country on January 21, 2017, is an intersectional movement to advance equal rights for all individuals regardless of gender, sexual identity or orientation, race or ethnicity, or ability; and

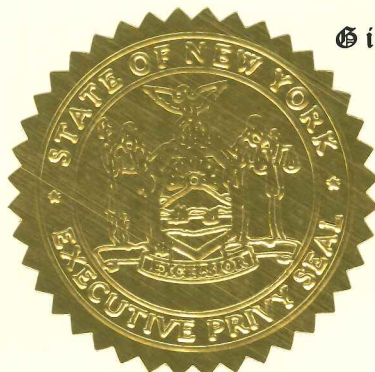
**Whereas**, women's suffrage was a milestone for New York State and a transformative moment in American democracy, and while we recognize that important glass ceilings remain to be shattered and thresholds to be crossed in fulfilling our mission for full equality; today we celebrate the accomplishments of women, and honor the courageous women who have made extraordinary contributions to the cause; and

**Whereas**, New York State is proud to commemorate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of women securing the right to vote in our state – giving momentum to the ratification of the Constitutional amendment that gave women nationwide a voice in our democratic process – a watershed achievement in the continued pursuit of full, unhindered, and unrestricted equality for all people;

**Now, Therefore**, I, Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby proclaim November 2017 as

## WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE CENTENNIAL MONTH

in the Empire State.



**Given** under my hand and the Privy Seal of the State at the Capitol in the City of Albany on this twenty-seventh day of October in the year two thousand seventeen.

Governor

Secretary to the Governor  
Melissa DeRosa