

105TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. CON. RES. 72

Postponing the relocation of the statue known as the Portrait Monument
to the rotunda of the Capitol.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 1, 1997

Ms. MCKINNEY (for herself, Ms. CARSON, Ms. CHRISTIAN-GREEN, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. OWENS, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. THOMPSON, Mr. DELLUMS, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. CLYBURN, Mr. HILLIARD, Mr. CLAY, Mr. DIXON, Mr. FATAH, Mr. STOKES, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. FLAKE, Mr. WYNN, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. BISHOP, Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. SANDERS, and Mr. CUMMINGS) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on House Oversight

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Postponing the relocation of the statue known as the Portrait
Monument to the rotunda of the Capitol.

Whereas the abolition movement was the wellspring of the
women's movement which arose out of the work of
women speaking out against slavery;

Whereas historians describe 3 major waves of the women's
movement as the women's movement from 1848 to 1875,
the suffrage movement from 1890 to 1920, and the con-
temporary movement from 1966 to the present;

Whereas Sojourner Truth was one of the 4 major pioneers and symbols of the first women's movement arising in 1848;

Whereas Sojourner Truth was acknowledged as a sister in the fight for women's rights by Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Susan B. Anthony, and Matilda Joslyn Gage in their History of Woman Suffrage first published in 1881;

Whereas Sojourner Truth is acclaimed as the foremost leader in the first women's rights movement who worked tirelessly for the laboring, working class, black and immigrant women who suffered in the workplace as well as from their political disenfranchisement;

Whereas Sojourner Truth was an impoverished former slave who supported herself by working as a domestic, whose back bore the scars from a savage whipping she received as a child slave, and whose children remained legally and physically separated from her in slavery after her own emancipation, yet she rose above this suffering to become a renowned national leader in the fight against slavery and for human rights, and to provide an inspirational role model for children;

Whereas the effort to raise the Portrait Monument described in House Concurrent Resolution 216, One Hundred Fourth Congress, originated in the effort to recreate and honor on August 19, 1995, a specific historical event, the 75th anniversary of the ratification of the nineteenth amendment granting women's suffrage;

Whereas the purpose of placing a statue honoring leaders of the women's movement in place of prominence and esteem is to commemorate for our children and for future generations to come the contributions of all women who

worked for equality for women and to serve as a reminder to all Americans of how our right to vote undergirds true equality for all;

Whereas the Portrait Monument as a celebration of the first women's movement is historically inaccurate in its exclusion of Sojourner Truth's pioneering efforts and contributions to the pursuit of equal rights in the first women's movement and in the participation of women of color to the suffrage movement; and

Whereas the Portrait Monument contains an unfinished portion whose significance and meaning has been disputed by some historians and art curators: Now, therefore be it,

1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
2 *concurring),*

3 **SECTION 1. POSTPONING RELOCATION OF PORTRAIT**
4 **MONUMENT TO ROTUNDA OF THE CAPITOL.**

5 Effective as of the date on which this concurrent res-
6 olution is agreed to, sections 1 and 2 of House Concurrent
7 Resolution 216, One Hundred Fourth Congress, shall have
8 no force or effect.

9 **SEC. 2. FUNCTIONS AND MEMBERSHIP OF COMMISSION RE-**
10 **SPONSIBLE FOR SELECTING PERMANENT**
11 **SITE FOR PORTRAIT MONUMENT.**

12 Section 3 of House Concurrent Resolution 216, One
13 Hundred Fourth Congress, shall remain in effect after
14 this concurrent resolution is agreed to, except that—

1 (1) the membership of the Commission de-
 2 scribed in such section shall be expanded to include
 3 4 additional private citizens with knowledge of the
 4 woman's suffrage movement or the history and role
 5 of women in the arts, of whom one shall be selected
 6 by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, one
 7 shall be selected by the Minority Leader of the
 8 House of Representatives, one shall be selected by
 9 the Majority Leader of the Senate, and one shall be
 10 selected by the Minority Leader of the Senate; and

11 (2) the Commission described in such section
 12 shall complete the functions described in paragraphs
 13 (1) through (4) of such section not later than one
 14 year after the date on which this concurrent resolu-
 15 tion is agreed to.

16 **SEC. 3. RECOGNITION OF THE WOMAN SUFFRAGE STATUE**
 17 **CAMPAIGN AND THE SOJOURNER TRUTH**
 18 **STATUE CRUSADE.**

19 The Woman Suffrage Statue Campaign and all those
 20 individuals and groups who supported its work are hereby
 21 recognized and congratulated for their educational efforts
 22 to acknowledge the contributions of Lucretia Mott, Eliza-
 23 beth Cady Stanton, and Susan B. Anthony to women's
 24 suffrage and the 75th anniversary of the ratification of
 25 the nineteenth amendment to the Constitution, and the

1 Sojourner Truth Statue Crusade and all those individuals
2 and groups who supported its work are hereby recognized
3 and congratulated for their educational efforts to acknowl-
4 edge the contributions of Sojourner Truth as well as
5 Lucretia Mott, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and Susan B. An-
6 thony to the abolitionist and women's movements.

