

1 SJR53  
2 139343-1  
3 By Senators Figures, Fielding, Irons, Brewbaker, Waggoner,  
4 Smith, Coleman, Keahey, Singleton, Dunn, Sanders, Allen,  
5 Beasley, Beason, Bedford, Blackwell, Brooks, Bussman, Dial,  
6 Glover, Holley, Holtzclaw, Marsh, McGill, Orr, Pittman, Reed,  
7 Ross, Sanford, Scofield, Smitherman, Taylor, Ward, Whatley,  
8 and Williams  
9 RFD:  
10 First Read: 22-MAR-12

8 RECOGNIZING WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH IN MARCH 2012.  
9

10 WHEREAS, although women now outnumber men in  
11 American colleges nationwide, the reversal of the gender gap  
12 is a very recent phenomenon; the fight to learn was a valiant  
13 struggle waged by many tenacious women in our country, across  
14 years and across cultures; and

15 WHEREAS, after the American Revolution, the notion  
16 of education as a safeguard for democracy created  
17 opportunities for girls to gain a basic education; and

18 WHEREAS, pioneers of secondary education for young  
19 women faced arguments that females were incapable of  
20 intellectual development equal to men, or that they would be  
21 harmed by striving for it; and

22 WHEREAS, this year, the theme of Women's History  
23 Month is "Women's Education -- Women's Empowerment"; and

24 WHEREAS, women today currently earn 41 percent of  
25 Ph.D.s in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics

1 fields, but make up only 28 percent of tenure-track faculty in  
2 those fields; and

3 WHEREAS, on June 18, 1983, NASA launched the  
4 Challenger for a six-day mission, and Dr. Sally Ride became  
5 the first American woman in space; and

6 WHEREAS, in June 1987, Mae C. Jemison, M.D., who was  
7 born in Decatur, Alabama, was selected for the NASA Astronaut  
8 program and was the first African-American woman astronaut,  
9 part of the crew of the Endeavour; Dr. Jemison was invaluable  
10 with her background in both engineering and medical research,  
11 along with work in computer programming, nuclear magnetic  
12 resonance and spectroscopy, among other areas; and

13 WHEREAS, while we have made great strides toward  
14 equality, we cannot rest until our mothers, sisters, and  
15 daughters assume their rightful place as full participants in  
16 a secure, prosperous, and just society; we must not forget the  
17 young women who are still looking up to the sky and reaching  
18 for the stars, and we must provide them with the tools they  
19 need to fulfil their dreams by supporting educational  
20 initiatives that will make a difference; and

21 WHEREAS, during Women's History Month, we are called  
22 to remember and honor the pioneering legacy of our  
23 grandmothers and great-grandmothers as revealed not only in  
24 our museums and history books, but also in the fierce  
25 determination and limitless potential of our daughters and  
26 granddaughters; now therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That we highlight the important role women have played in shaping our great state and nation, as we make headway on other crucial issues of our time, and we remember the courageous vision championed by women of past generations, as we are inspired to defend the dreams and opportunities of those to come.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be provided for appropriate presentation and display during the observance of Women's History Month in March 2012.