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(Original Signature of Member)

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R.

To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to establish a commemorative trail in connection with the Women's Rights National Historical Park to link properties that are historically and thematically associated with the struggle for women's suffrage, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Ms. SLAUGHTER introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to establish a commemorative trail in connection with the Women's Rights National Historical Park to link properties that are historically and thematically associated with the struggle for women's suffrage, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; FINDINGS.**

4 (a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This Act may be cited as the
5 “National Women's Rights History Project Act”.

6 (b) **FINDINGS.**—Congress finds the following:

1 (1) The women’s rights movement is one of the
2 three great protest traditions in United States his-
3 tory, sharing that status with the struggle for racial
4 equality and the labor movement. These movements
5 challenged Americans to consider the essential
6 meaning of the Declaration of Independence: “that
7 all men are created equal, that they are endowed by
8 their Creator with certain inalienable Rights, that
9 among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of
10 Happiness. That to secure these rights, Govern-
11 ments are instituted among Men, deriving their just
12 powers from the consent of the governed.”.

13 (2) New York State in the nineteenth century
14 was at the cutting edge of these movements, includ-
15 ing the womans’ rights movement. On July 19,
16 1848, a group of activists including Elizabeth Cady
17 Stanton, Lucretia Mott, Martha Wright, Jane Hunt,
18 and Mary Ann M’Clintock, convened the first Wom-
19 en’s Rights Convention at Wesleyan Chapel in Sen-
20 eca Falls, New York. During the Convention, 68
21 women and 32 men signed the Declaration of Senti-
22 ments calling for a broad array of rights for women,
23 including suffrage.

24 (3) Susan B. Anthony formed the Equal Rights
25 Association, refuted ideas that women were inferior

1 to men, and fought for women's right to vote. She
2 also campaigned for the rights of women to own
3 property, to keep their own earnings, and to have
4 custody of their children. In 1900, she persuaded
5 the University of Rochester to admit women.

6 (4) In 1869, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Susan B.
7 Anthony, Matilda Joslyn Gage, and others formed
8 the National Woman Suffrage Association, and Lucy
9 Stone, Henry Blackwell, and others formed the
10 American Woman Suffrage Association. In 1890,
11 these merged into the National American Woman
12 Suffrage Association. Through mass campaigns in-
13 volving thousands of women and men all across the
14 country, National American Woman Suffrage Asso-
15 ciation helped secure passage of the Nineteenth
16 amendment to the United States Constitution, offi-
17 cially certified on August 26, 1920, giving women
18 the right to vote.

19 (5) In the late 19th and early 20th centuries,
20 the women's movement expanded to play a critical
21 role in shaping policies on education, legal reform,
22 and economic and social welfare.

1 **SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF VOTES FOR WOMEN'S HISTORY**
2 **TRAIL ROUTE AS FEATURE OF WOMEN'S**
3 **RIGHTS NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK.**

4 Title XVI of Public Law 96–607, which established
5 the Women's Rights National Historical Park, is amended
6 by inserting after section 1601 (16 U.S.C. 410*ll*) the fol-
7 lowing new section:

8 **“SEC. 1602. VOTES FOR WOMEN TRAIL.**

9 “(a) FINDING.—There is an opportunity for the
10 Women's Rights National Historical Park in Seneca Falls
11 and Waterloo, New York, to work in partnership with his-
12 torically and thematically related properties in the corridor
13 between the eastern border of New York State and the
14 Niagara Frontier, including the Susan B. Anthony House,
15 to tell the story of the 72-year fight for women's suffrage.

16 “(b) ESTABLISHMENT OF TRAIL ROUTE.—The Sec-
17 retary of the Interior, acting through the Director of Na-
18 tional Park Service, with concurrence of the agency having
19 jurisdiction over the relevant roads, is authorized to des-
20 ignate a vehicular tour route, to be known as the ‘Votes
21 for Women History Trail Route’, to link properties in the
22 State of New York that are historically and thematically
23 associated with the struggle for women's suffrage in the
24 United States.

1 “(c) ADMINISTRATION.—The Votes for Women Trail
2 shall be administered by the National Park Service
3 through Women’s Rights National Historical Park.

4 “(d) ACTIVITIES.—To facilitate the establishment of
5 the Votes for Women Trail and the dissemination of infor-
6 mation regarding the Trail Route, the Secretary shall—

7 “(1) produce and disseminate appropriate edu-
8 cational materials regarding the Trail Route, such
9 as handbooks, maps, exhibits, signs, interpretive
10 guides, and electronic information;

11 “(2) coordinate the management, planning, and
12 standards of the auto route in partnership with par-
13 ticipating properties, other Federal agencies, and
14 State and local governments;

15 “(3) create and adopt an official, uniform sym-
16 bol or device to mark the Votes for Women History
17 Trail Route; and

18 “(4) issue guidelines for the use of such symbol
19 or device.

20 “(e) ELEMENTS OF TRAIL ROUTE.—The Secretary
21 may designate as an official stop on the Votes for Women
22 History Trail Route any of the following properties, sub-
23 ject to the consent of the owner of the property:

1 “(1) All units and programs of Women’s Rights
2 National Historical Park that pertain to the struggle
3 for women’s suffrage.

4 “(2) Other Federal, State, local, and privately
5 owned properties that the Secretary determines have
6 a verifiable connection to the struggle for women’s
7 suffrage.

8 “(3) Other governmental and nongovernmental
9 facilities and programs of an educational, commemo-
10 rative, research, or interpretive nature that the Sec-
11 retary determines to be directly related to the strug-
12 gle for women’s suffrage.

13 “(f) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS AND MEMORANDA
14 OF UNDERSTANDING.—

15 “(1) AUTHORIZED.—To facilitate the establish-
16 ment of the Votes for Women Trail and to ensure
17 effective coordination of the Federal and non-Fed-
18 eral properties designated as stops along the Trail
19 Route, the Secretary is authorized to enter into co-
20 operative agreements and memorandums of under-
21 standing with, and provide technical and financial
22 assistance to, other Federal agencies, the State of
23 New York, localities, regional governmental bodies,
24 and private entities.

1 “(2) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—
2 There are authorized to be appropriated to the Sec-
3 retary of the Interior such sums as are necessary for
4 the period of fiscal year 2008 through fiscal year
5 2012 to provide financial assistance to cooperating
6 entities pursuant to agreements or memorandums
7 entered into under paragraph (1).”.

8 **SEC. 3. NATIONAL WOMEN’S RIGHTS HISTORY PROJECT NA-**
9 **TIONAL REGISTRY.**

10 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Interior is
11 authorized to make annual grants to State historic preser-
12 vation offices for up to 5 years to assist those State his-
13 toric preservation offices in surveying, evaluating, and
14 nominating women’s rights history properties to the Na-
15 tional Register of Historic Places. The Secretary shall en-
16 sure that the National Register travel itinerary website,
17 “Places Where Women Made History” is updated to con-
18 tain the results of the inventory and links to websites re-
19 lated to places on the inventory when such links are avail-
20 able.

21 (b) ELIGIBILITY.—When offering grants under sub-
22 section (a), the Secretary shall give priority grants related
23 to properties associated with the multiple facets of the
24 women’s rights movement such as politics, economics, edu-
25 cation, religion, and social and family rights.

1 (c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
2 are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of the
3 Interior to carry out this section such sums as are nec-
4 essary for the period of fiscal year 2008 through fiscal
5 year 2012.

6 **SEC. 4. NATIONAL WOMEN'S RIGHTS HISTORY PROJECT**
7 **PARTNERSHIPS NETWORK.**

8 (a) GRANTS.—The Secretary of the Interior is au-
9 thorized to make matching grants and give technical as-
10 sistance for development of a network of governmental and
11 nongovernmental entities whose purpose is to provide in-
12 terpretive and educational program development of na-
13 tional women's rights history, including historic preserva-
14 tion. Matching grants for historic preservation specific to
15 the network may be made available through State historic
16 preservation offices.

17 (b) MANAGEMENT OF NETWORK.—The network shall
18 be managed through a nongovernmental entity, identified
19 by the Secretary of the Interior through a competitive
20 process. The nongovernmental managing entity shall work
21 in partnership with the National Park Service and State
22 historic preservation offices to coordinate operation of the
23 network.

24 (c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
25 are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of the

1 Interior to carry out this section such sums as are nec-
2 essary for the period of fiscal year 2008 through fiscal
3 year 2012.