

Regular Session, 2013

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 222

BY REPRESENTATIVE COX

A RESOLUTION

To welcome the American Association of University Women to Louisiana and to wish its members well on the occasion of its national convention.

WHEREAS, the American Association of University Women (AAUW) is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization with more than one hundred sixty-five thousand members and supporters across the United States; and

WHEREAS, AAUW has been empowering women and girls since 1881 through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research; and

WHEREAS, on November 28, 1881, Marion Talbot and Ellen Richards met in Boston with fifteen alumnae representing eight colleges to discuss the needs of college-educated women and the formation of the Association of Collegiate Alumnae; and

WHEREAS, on January 14, 1882, sixty-five alumnae of eight colleges joined together to formally establish the Association of Collegiate Alumnae, the predecessor to the AAUW; and

WHEREAS, the group established that the purpose of the organization was "For practical education work, for collection and publication of statistical and other information concerning education, and in general, for the maintenance of high standards of education"; and

WHEREAS, in 1885, the organization issued its first research report, Health Statistics of Women College Graduates, which established that, contrary to popular belief, women's health is not adversely affected by attending college; and

WHEREAS, more than a century ago, in 1905, the AAUW took a stance by supporting the first federal pay equity legislation; and

WHEREAS, during World War II, the AAUW supported the establishment of women's units of the armed services and advocated for equal pay and rank for women; and

WHEREAS, in 1946, as a result of being a vocal advocate for the establishment of the United Nations, AAUW was granted permanent United Nations observer status; and

WHEREAS, to reaffirm that college women graduates of all races are eligible for membership, the AAUW revised its bylaws in 1949 to specify that the only requirement for membership is a college degree; and

WHEREAS, the Coretta Scott King Fund was established in 1969 by the AAUW Educational Foundation to provide scholarships to African American women to study history, culture, and peace; and

WHEREAS, John Freeman became the AAUW's first male member in June 1987 when the organization extended its membership to male college graduates; and

WHEREAS, in June 2005, the AAUW voted to expand its membership to include graduates who hold an associate or equivalent degree from a qualified educational institution in response to the growing population of women who have entered economically advantageous careers with this kind of educational background; and

WHEREAS, the members of the AAUW bravely took on the fight for equal pay for equal work by vigorously supporting the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act; and

WHEREAS, to date, the AAUW has one thousand local branches and eight hundred college and university partners; and

WHEREAS, for one hundred thirty-one years, AAUW has helped women advance through every stage of their lives; and

WHEREAS, the AAUW works to promote women's issues in the areas of civil rights, economic security, education, voter education, public policy, Title IX, and science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) education.

WHEREAS, on June 9 through 12, 2013, the motivated and empowered members of the AAUW will visit the great city of New Orleans to celebrate their national convention with the theme "Breaking through Barriers: Leading across Generations"; and

WHEREAS, the national convention promises to be several days of engaging dialogue, inspiring reflections, and a call for greater service.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby welcome the American Association of University

Women to the state of Louisiana and does hereby wish its members well on the occasion of their national convention.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend the American Association of University Women for its unwavering dedication and commitment to the advancement of women.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the executive director of the American Association of University Women.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES