

January 31, 2022

To the Chairman of the Committee on Federal and State Affairs,

I am writing in support of SB 179, designating February 15 as Susan B. Anthony day in the state of Kansas.

“Men their rights, and nothing more; Women their rights, and nothing less”

Susan B. Anthony along with Elizabeth Cady Stanton founded such organizations as the Women’s Loyal National League which conducted the largest petition drive at that time in U.S. history, collecting 400,000 signatures in support of the abolition of slavery. The American Equal Rights Association campaigning for the equal rights for both women and African Americans and finally the National American Women Suffrage Association.

From 1851 until her death on March 13, 1906 Susan B. Anthony traveled the country as a champion for the equal rights and treatment of women and African Americans. Often facing hostile crowds and great peril to herself she stood firm in her beliefs. A belief that in her own words:

“There will never be complete equality until women themselves help make laws and elect lawmakers”

A conviction so serious that she voted illegally in the Presidential election of 1872. Arrested and tried unsuccessfully she was given a \$100 fine, a fine she never paid.

On May 21, 1919, 14 years after her passing, U.S. Representative James R. Mann proposed a House Resolution to approve the 19th Amendment to the Constitution. Known as the Susan B. Anthony Amendment it reads in part:

“The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex. Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.”

The resolution passed the House 304-89 and on June 4, 1919 the Senate passed the Amendment 56-25. Twelve days later on June 16th Kansas would become the fourth state to ratify said amendment.

In 1978 Congress passed the Susan B. Anthony coin Act recognizing Miss Anthony for her life’s work and contributions by making her the first woman to appear on a circulated U.S. coin.

Now 116 years after her passing Kansas Lawmakers face a decision of whether or not to pass legislation that would call for a Susan B. Anthony Day in the State of Kansas. Ironically the same month we celebrate another champion of civil rights Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. It is the right thing to do and is long overdue. The time is now to recognize Susan B. Anthony’s life work with a day named in her honor.

I strongly support SB 179 designating February 15th of each year as Susan B. Anthony Day in the State of Kansas.

Sincerely,

Kenneth M. LaMaster

Historian/Author

Co-Chair

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