

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 11
IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY SENATOR DAVIS

Introduced: 1/17/12

Referred: State Affairs

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging members of the Alaska delegation in Congress to support efforts by the National
2 Women's History Museum to secure property in Washington, D.C., near the National
3 Mall, as a permanent location for the National Women's History Museum.

4 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

5 WHEREAS, in 1987, the United States Congress declared the month of March as
6 Women's History Month to acknowledge the important role women have played in shaping
7 America; and

8 WHEREAS, although women constitute a majority of the nation's population, the
9 achievements and contributions of women are underrepresented in museums and memorials;
10 and

11 WHEREAS a recent survey of 18 history textbooks revealed that only 10 percent of
12 people identified in the history textbooks were women; and

13 WHEREAS, in 1999, the President's Commission on the Celebration of Women in
14 American History called for the designation of a Women's History Site in Washington, D.C.;
15 and

1 **WHEREAS** museums have been dedicated to flight, postage stamps, buildings, and
2 many other important issues and people of interest, but not to women, who today make up 51
3 percent of the nation's population; and

4 **WHEREAS** the National Women's History Museum, founded in 1996, is a
5 nonpartisan, nonprofit, educational institution dedicated to preserving, interpreting, and
6 celebrating the diverse historic contributions of women and to integrating the heritage of
7 women fully into the nation's history; and

8 **WHEREAS** the National Women's History Museum seeks a site on or near the
9 National Mall and in close proximity to the White House and the United States Capitol
10 Building; and

11 **WHEREAS** H.R. 1269, the National Women's History Museum Act of 2011, and a
12 companion bill, S. 680, which are currently pending in the United States Congress, seek
13 authorization for the National Women's History Museum to purchase at fair market value with
14 privately raised funds federally owned property for sale near the National Mall, and no federal
15 funds are being requested for the purchase of the land; and

16 **WHEREAS** the National Women's History Museum will showcase the full history of
17 women in the United States and the contributions women have made and continue to make in
18 the marketplace, arts and sciences, entertainment, education, government, community, and
19 home; and

20 **WHEREAS** a coalition of 43 women's organizations representing 8,000,000 women,
21 including the National Foundation for Women Legislators, supports the efforts of the National
22 Women's History Museum to establish a permanent museum near the National Mall, the most
23 prominent location for museums in the nation's capital;

24 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature urges members of the Alaska
25 delegation in Congress to support efforts by the National Women's History Museum to secure
26 a permanent home in the nation's capital for a museum that will highlight the important role
27 women have played in shaping this great nation.

28 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to Joan Bradley Wages, President and Chief
29 Executive Officer, National Women's History Museum; Robin Read, President, National
30 Foundation for Women Legislators; and the Honorable Lisa Murkowski and the Honorable
31 Mark Begich, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of

1 the Alaska delegation in Congress.