

# Alaska State Legislature

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## Senator Bettye Davis

**SJR 11      “Urging members of the Alaska delegation in Congress to support efforts by the National Women’s History Museum to secure property in Washington, D.C., near the National Mall, as a permanent location for the National Women’s History Museum.”**

### Sponsor Statement

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**Senate Joint Resolution No. 11** urges members of the Alaska delegation in Congress to support efforts by the National Women’s History Museum to secure property in Washington DC near the National Mall as a permanent location for the National Women’s History Museum.

Women played and continue to play essential roles in many movements that helped shape the society we value so highly today. Such movements include the Labor Movement, the Women’s Suffrage Movement, the Civil Rights Movement, the Women’s Rights Movement, and the Environmental Movement. Women have long struggled to gain ground in a society largely dominated by men. Unfortunately, women achievements were marginalized and credit for their work and discoveries went to their male colleagues. Too often women were unsung heroes and their contributions went unnoticed. The displacement of women’s history from the consciousness of the general public is indicated by the absence of women’s history from K-12 curriculum. The achievements, leadership, courage, strength and love of the women who built America was and is as vital as that of the men whose names we know so well.

In the 1970’s, that began to change as a movement to celebrate women’s history gained momentum – a momentum we now feel each March during Women’s History Month as we pay tribute to the millions of women who sacrificed so much to help create a better society and world.

Since its founding in 1996, the National Women’s History Museum Institution, with the support of the National Foundation for women legislators, has been working toward obtaining a permanent site near the National Mall for its building. The construction of a museum that exhibits the rich history of women and their many contributions to society is long overdue. Furthermore, a location among the prestigious museums in and around the National Mall is fitting for an institution that would depict such an integral and transformative aspect of our nation’s history which has for too long been obscured.

SJR11 urges Alaska’s Congressional delegation to support legislation pending in Congress that allows a parcel of property near Washington D.C.’s National Mall to be purchased by the National Women’s History Museum Institution for the permanent site of the National Women’s History Museum building. SJR urges our congressional delegation to support the acquisition of property by the National Women’s History Museum, which would constitute an enormous step forward in the effort of bringing to light a missing piece of our nation’s history.