



State of North Carolina

ROY COOPER
GOVERNOR

WOMEN'S EQUALITY DAY

2019

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Women's Equality Day commemorates the passage of the 19th Amendment to the United States Constitution, which stated: The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States by any State on account of sex; and in 1971, the U.S. Congress designated August 26 as Women's Equality Day,

WHEREAS, the 19th amendment did not guarantee voting rights for all women, specifically many women of color, and the struggle for full enfranchisement continues today; and

WHEREAS, 2020 marks the 100th anniversary of women's suffrage, and North Carolina is celebrating this historic event with an initiative titled, She Changed the World: North Carolina Women Breaking Barriers, from 2019 through November 2020; and

WHEREAS, recognizing the achievements of all North Carolina women and their work to break down barriers is key to informing future progress for women; and

WHEREAS, although the Equal Pay Act is celebrating its 56th anniversary this year, the United States' gender pay gap demonstrates that women remain undervalued in today's workplace; according to the Institute for Women's Policy Research, women will not receive equal pay in North Carolina until 2060; and

WHEREAS, women in North Carolina continue to make progress; more than 38 percent of Historically Underutilized Businesses are owned by women; and women make up 70 percent of the State Internship Program, which provides on-the-job opportunities for college, community college, graduate, and law students; and

WHEREAS, members of the North Carolina Council for Women Advisory Board are appointed by the Governor to address issues such as health and well-being, education, and employment of women in our state; and

WHEREAS, the Council for Women and local women's commissions work to improve the quality of life for women by advocating for equal pay, affordable health care and childcare, education, and policies supporting women's employability and retention in the workforce; and

WHEREAS, women continue to break through the historic barriers they face and serve as leaders in our communities; today, women can use their voices and the votes to improve the lives of women and girls, and all people throughout North Carolina and the United States;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ROY COOPER, Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim August 26, 2019, as **"WOMEN'S EQUALITY DAY"** in North Carolina, and commend its observance to all citizens.



Roy Cooper
Governor

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of the State of North Carolina at the Capitol in Raleigh this nineteenth day of August in the year of our Lord two thousand and nineteen and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-third.