



Susan Wengraf
Councilmember District 6

CONSENT CALENDAR
May 15, 2018

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
From: Councilmembers Wengraf, Hahn, and Davila
Subject: Support H.R.5308 (Lee) Women's History and Nineteenth Amendment Centennial Quarter Dollar Coin Program Act

RECOMMENDATION

Write a letter of support for [H.R. 5308](#) to its sponsor, U.S. Congresswoman Barbara Lee [D-CA-13], and cc the bill's co-sponsor, Bruce Poliquin [R-ME-2], and Senators Kamala Harris and Dianne Feinstein.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None

BACKGROUND

August 20, 2020 will mark the 100 anniversary of granting women the right to vote. The Nineteenth Amendment, granting women the right to vote, was added to the United States Constitution on August 20, 1920. This legislation honors that passage by requiring the Treasury Department to mint and issue quarter dollars in commemoration of the Nineteenth Amendment.

The proposed bill acknowledges that not all women were allowed to access their voting rights after the suffrage movement's victory. Native Americans weren't granted citizenship until 1924, when they also received the right to vote. However, it wasn't until 1948 that legal victories of Native American Veterans gave Native men and women protections for the right to vote. The Immigration and Nationality Act of 1952 granted citizenship to all individuals of Asian descent, and by extension, the right to vote. Protections for Black women to vote did not exist until the Voting Rights Act of 1965 was enacted. In 1975 amendments to the Voting Rights Act of 1965 removed language barriers to lessen discrimination against Latino, Asian and Native American Voters. Finally, on March 29, 1961, women, as well as men, in Washington, DC were allowed to vote in all elections by the passage of the 23rd Amendment, which granted electors in DC the same status as electors in a state.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

No negative nor positive impact.

CONTACT PERSON

Councilmember Wengraf

Council District 6

510-981-7160

Attachments:

1: Letter of Support

May 15, 2018

U.S. Congresswoman Barbara Lee
2267 Rayburn House
Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

To: Congresswoman Barbara Lee

From: Berkeley City Council

RE: Support for H.R.5308

Dear Congresswoman Barbara Lee:

The City of Berkeley is in strong support of honoring those who fought to gain and protect the right of all women to vote. We support your bill, H.R.5308, the Women's History and Nineteenth Amendment Centennial Quarter Dollar Coin Program Act. We appreciate that your bill acknowledges the tireless work of suffragists and their supporters. In addition, your bill informs the public of the many delays for women of Native, Asian, Black and Latino heritage to receive protections of their voting rights.

H.R.5308 states that the Secretary of the Treasury will promote the collection of, and recognition of the subjects for the coins, and submit a report to Congress by March 1, 2019 on the findings. Given the findings in your bill, we trust those subjects will reflect the full range of suffragists and supporters who worked bravely so that all women would have the right to vote in the U.S. We look forward to carrying the nineteenth amendment centennial quarter dollar coins in our purses and pockets.

Thank you for putting forth this bill and recognizing the role of women in the history of the United States. It's about time!

Thank you for all the work you do!

Berkeley City Council

