

Senate Resolution 413

By: Senator Fort of the 39th

#### A RESOLUTION

1 Expressing opposition to gender discrimination and urging the Augusta National Golf Club  
2 to review and to reverse its discriminatory policy of excluding women from its membership;  
3 and for other purposes.

4 WHEREAS, the Augusta National Golf Club is an all-male membership organization that  
5 discriminates against women by barring them from membership as a matter of policy; and

6 WHEREAS, such exclusion of women is an egregious wrong that violates the moral  
7 standards that are fundamental to our national identity; and

8 WHEREAS, the Augusta National Golf Club is one of the most prestigious clubs in the  
9 United States, revered for its beauty, decorum, and hallowed tradition; and

10 WHEREAS, Augusta National Golf Club chairman William (Hootie) Johnson has cited  
11 tradition in upholding its discriminatory practice and has flatly stated that gender  
12 discrimination is the club's right and that gender discrimination does not rise to the level of  
13 race discrimination, which the club practiced until pressured to admit African American men  
14 in 1990; and

15 WHEREAS, tradition is only truly hallowed when it fosters and upholds the highest  
16 principles and promotes the greatest good; and

17 WHEREAS, the Augusta National Golf Club membership includes CEO's of America's  
18 largest corporations and leaders of other institutions, including Harvard University, the  
19 United States Diplomatic Corps, and the United States Olympic Committee; and

20 WHEREAS, many of the corporations represented in the Augusta National Golf Club  
21 membership aggressively market to women and have corporate codes of conduct which  
22 prohibit discrimination; and

1 WHEREAS, while as a private club, the Augusta National Golf Club may be within the law  
2 in discriminating against women, the club has a moral obligation to open its doors to women;  
3 and

4 WHEREAS, when a club such as the Augusta National Golf Club holds a very public event  
5 such as the Masters golf tournament, the premier golf tournament in the world, which it owns  
6 and hosts, and figuratively invites the world by broadcasting that event to millions of people  
7 worldwide on public air waves, it has by its own choice become a de facto public facility;  
8 and

9 WHEREAS, it thereby assumes a moral obligation to abide by the standards of the public at  
10 large and the standards of America as a nation whose people are clearly opposed to  
11 discrimination.

12 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body  
13 express their opposition to gender discrimination in any form or forum and urge the Augusta  
14 National Golf Club to reverse its policy of discriminating against women by allowing women  
15 members.

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed  
17 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Mr. William (Hootie) Johnson, Chairman  
18 of the Augusta National Golf Club.