

House Resolution 1479

By: Representatives Drenner of the 85th and Henson of the 86th

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Supporting the creation of a Gender Parity Task Force; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, women are underrepresented in American politics, and progress has stagnated;
3 and
- 4 WHEREAS, no woman has ever been elected President of the United States; and
- 5 WHEREAS, only one woman has ever been the presidential nominee of a major American
6 political party; and
- 7 WHEREAS, only two women have been the vice-presidential nominee of a major American
8 political party; and
- 9 WHEREAS, women hold only 20 percent of United States Senate seats and only 18.2 percent
10 of United States House of Representatives seats; and
- 11 WHEREAS, twenty-four states have never had a woman governor; and
- 12 WHEREAS, only five states as of August, 2014, have had women governors; and
- 13 WHEREAS, women hold only 22.8 percent of all executive offices elected state-wide,
14 representing an increase of less than 1 percent since 1993; and
- 15 WHEREAS, women hold only 24.2 percent of state legislature seats; and
- 16 WHEREAS, there are only 12 women mayors of America's 100 largest cities; and
- 17 WHEREAS, less than one-third of city council seats are held by women in America's 100
18 largest cities; and

19 WHEREAS, the United States ranks ninety-eighth in the world for women's representation
20 in national legislative chambers, a fall from fifty-ninth in 1998; and

21 WHEREAS, the Center for American Women and Politics at Rutgers University found that
22 women are 16 percent less likely to be encouraged to run for office by a member of their
23 political party; and

24 WHEREAS, at current rates of change, it would take more than a century to achieve parity
25 in legislatures and nearly a millennium in our highest executive offices; and

26 WHEREAS, we support the goal of the parity pledge: that representative democracy is
27 stronger when it is equally likely that men and women will make up the majority of elected
28 officials in the United States and in our state and local government over time.

29 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
30 the members of this body support the creation of a Gender Parity Task Force to make
31 recommendations to the House of Representatives on any policies or practices that would
32 increase women's representation or encourage more women to run for office.

33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
34 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the Secretary of State and
35 the leaders of the Republican and Democrat political parties in Georgia.