

Date of Testimony: March 14 at 9:30 AM

Bill number: SB 479 An act authorizing a permanent memorial commemorating the Kansas Suffragist Movement to be placed in the Capitol.

Disposition: Proponent

Letter of Support

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Commemorative Suffragist Art Committee; American Association of University Women (AAUW) of Kansas

I am writing in support of **Senate Bill 479** on behalf of the American Association of University Women of Kansas..AAUW.

AAUW celebrated 100 plus years of the passage of women's right to vote in 2020. Since AAUW was organized in Kansas in 1919 we have supported efforts for women's suffrage plus active advocates for education for women and lifelong learning. We are proud that Kansas was among the first states to pass the legislation granting women the vote. And we continue that pride for the then, now and in the future the right and responsibility to vote.

There were many women dedicated to the suffrage cause. It's time to honor these 19th Amendment pioneers with a memorial at the Capitol. This memorial will bring pride in our history, educate our citizens, and commemorate women who set the gold standard of citizenship making a remarkable impact statewide and for the nation.

Senate Bill 479 allows our suffrage memorial committee to work closely with the Capitol Preservation Committee regarding the selection and placement of art in the Capitol. We very much appreciate the authorization of the Suffrage Memorial Fund to be established to accept and manage the private funding of the memorial. There are already funds designated for this project and this will certainly facilitate additional funding. Thank you.

AAUW of Kansas recommends you support passage of **SB 479**.

Regards,

Louise Ehmke

Public Policy Chair, AAUW of Kansas Board

