



August 26, 2020

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Senate Majority Leader
The Capitol S-230
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Senate Minority Leader
The Capitol S-221
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Leader McConnell and Leader Schumer,

We write to you today in support of S.959, the *Smithsonian American Women's Museum Act*. We urge you to honor the brave suffragists who never gave up the fight for equality by establishing a national museum in Washington, D.C. to tell the stories of the generations of women who built America and secured the passage of the 19th Amendment.

The Women's Suffrage Centennial Commission (WSCC) was created by Congress in 2017 to "ensure a suitable observance of the centennial of the passage and ratification of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States providing for women's suffrage" and to "develop recommendations for Congress and the President for commemorating the centennial of the passage of the 19th Amendment." Led by Chair Susan Combs, Vice Chair Colleen Shogan, and a bipartisan group of women leaders, the WSCC believes that by establishing the Smithsonian American Women's History Museum in Washington, D.C., our country will have taken a vital step towards commemorating the suffragists who demanded equality and educating future generations of learners and changemakers about the power of civic engagement.

Through the establishment of the Smithsonian American Women's History Museum, we have the opportunity to share the story of the 19th Amendment and to ensure that the legacy of the suffragists is remembered and celebrated for the next 100 years. The House of Representatives voted to approve the companion bill to S.959 on February 11, 2020 by a vote of 347-37. This historic initiative has the support of the Women's Suffrage Centennial Commission, the Smithsonian Institution, and the American people, and with your leadership, we can make history with the passage of S.959. We thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Susan Combs
Chair, WSCC

Dr. Colleen Shogan
Vice Chair, WSCC