

Recognizing March, 2015 as

Women's History Month

Celebrating Women's Contributions to our Nation, our State, and the California State Board of Equalization

WHEREAS, in 1987, the National Women's History Project petitioned Congress to expand the existing National Women's History Week celebration to the entire month of March. Since then, the National Women's History Month Resolution has been approved with bipartisan support in both chambers of Congress, and the President has issued for our nation a special Women's History Month Proclamation each year; and

WHEREAS, the theme selected for the 2015 National Women's History Month, "Weaving the Stories of Women's Lives" presents the opportunity to weave women's stories – individually and collectively – into the essential fabric of our nation's history as they reveal exceptionally strong role models who share a more expansive vision of what a woman can do; and

WHEREAS, on this 35th anniversary of the National Women's History Month, it is fitting that we continue to celebrate the stories of American women of every race, class, and ethnic background not only during this month, but also throughout the year, because they have played and continue to play a critical economic, cultural, and social role in every sphere of the life of the nation by constituting a significant portion of the labor force, working inside and outside of the home; and

WHEREAS, women earn an average of only 78% of what their male colleagues earn for the same job and still make up a disproportionate 66% of minimum wage workers, while more and more families depend on women's wages as the sole or primary source of support; accordingly, the Board of Equalization supports and promotes pay equity and equal opportunities for women and men to ensure the well-being of women, our families, and our whole economy; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Equalization places a high priority on educating and empowering women - and on helping them start and grow their businesses through the successful Women Conferences and Business Resource Seminars - and celebrates the increase of women-owned firms in the last 14 years by over 59 percent to just over 1.1 million firms, now comprising over 30 percent of our state's businesses; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Equalization develops and promotes opportunities in public service, and recognizes that the economic power and influence of women will continue to grow in California; indeed, a majority of the Board of Equalization's elected Board Members and employees are women, and from our Executive Director and senior managers to our newest employees, the women of the Board of Equalization form a mighty team and a powerful example of what can be accomplished when talent and opportunity are joined in public service; and now, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, That we, the Members of the Board of Equalization, will redouble the commitment of the Board of Equalization to connect California's women to the information and opportunities they need to succeed in their entrepreneurial and public service endeavors, and hereby recognize the countless contributions women have made to our state and nation in all areas of life and celebrate the many ways that women's history has become woven into the fabric of our national story.

Dated this 26th day of March, 2015