

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2011**

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HOUSE RESOLUTION 1218

Sponsors: Representatives Gill, Hurley, Adams, and Cotham (Primary Sponsors).
For a complete list of Sponsors, see Bill Information on the NCGA Web Site.

Referred to: Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House.

June 4, 2012

1 A HOUSE RESOLUTION EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR A NATIONAL WOMEN'S
2 HISTORY MUSEUM IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

3 Whereas, in 1987 Congress declared March to serve as "Women's History Month"
4 to acknowledge the important role women have played in shaping America; and

5 Whereas, although women constitute a majority of the nation's population, their
6 achievements and contributions are underrepresented in museums and memorials; and

7 Whereas, only 10% of the people identified in a recent survey of 18 history
8 textbooks were women; and

9 Whereas, in 1999 the President's Commission on the Celebration of Women in
10 American History called for a women's history museum to be established on the National Mall
11 in Washington, D.C.; and

12 Whereas, the National Women's History Museum (NWHM), founded in 1996, is a
13 nonpartisan, nonprofit, educational institution dedicated to preserving, interpreting, and
14 celebrating the diverse historic contributions of women and integrating the heritage of women
15 fully into this nation's history; and

16 Whereas, the NWHM seeks a site on or close to the National Mall and in close
17 proximity to the White House and U.S. Capitol Building; and

18 Whereas, the NWHM has identified federally owned property for sale near the
19 National Mall; and

20 Whereas, legislation is currently pending in Congress seeking authorization for the
21 NWHM to be able to purchase this property at fair market value with privately raised funds,
22 and no federal funds are being requested for the purchase of this land; and

23 Whereas, there are museums dedicated to flight, postage stamps, buildings, and
24 many other important people and issues of interest but not to women, yet women comprise 51%
25 of the nation's population; and

26 Whereas, the NWHM will showcase the full history of women in the United States
27 and the contributions they have made and continue to make in the marketplace, arts and
28 sciences, government, entertainment, education, home, and community; and

29 Whereas, the NWHM could present the stories of such women as Henderson, North
30 Carolina, native Charlotte Eugenia Hawkins Brown, an African-American civic leader and
31 educator who founded the Palmer Institute in honor of her mentor, Alice Freeman Palmer, in
32 1902 in Sedalia, North Carolina; and

33 Whereas, the Palmer Institute began as a vocational school, but its curriculum
34 evolved until it was a strictly academic institution and was considered one of the finest
35 preparatory schools for African-Americans in the United States; and



1 Whereas, Charlotte Hawkins Brown served as the president of Palmer Institute for
2 50 years, before retiring in 1952; and

3 Whereas, in her retirement, Charlotte Hawkins Brown continued to act as the
4 financial director of the school and was deeply involved on its board of directors until her death
5 in 1961; and

6 Whereas, in addition to running the Palmer Institute, Charlotte Hawkins Brown
7 fought tirelessly for African-American civil rights, lecturing in opposition to lynching and in
8 favor of interracial cooperation; and

9 Whereas, Charlotte Hawkins Brown helped to found the National Council of Negro
10 Women, the North Carolina State Federation of Negro Women's Clubs, and the North Carolina
11 Teachers Association and was a member of the national board of the YWCA; and

12 Whereas, a coalition of 43 women's organizations representing 8,000,000 women,
13 which includes the National Foundation for Women Legislators (NFWL), supports the efforts
14 of the NWHM to establish a permanent residence near the National Mall, the most prominent
15 location for museums to be situated in the nation's capital; Now, therefore,

16 Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

17 **SECTION 1.** The House of Representatives supports the National Women's
18 History Museum's efforts to secure a permanent home in the nation's capital for a museum that
19 will highlight the important role women have played in shaping this great nation.

20 **SECTION 2.** The Principal Clerk shall transmit a certified copy of this resolution
21 to the members of North Carolina's Congressional Delegation.

22 **SECTION 3.** This resolution is effective upon adoption.