



Dear Chairman Murkowski,

We write to you today in support of HR 473/S.1705, "A bill to authorize the Every Word We Utter Monument to establish a commemorative work in the District of Columbia and its environs, and for other purposes." From 2019-2020, the U.S. will celebrate the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment and women's constitutional right to vote, and we urge you to commemorate this historic centennial and honor the brave suffragists who never gave up the fight for equality through the building of the first outdoor suffrage statue in our nation's capital.

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." Led by Chairwoman Kay Coles James, Vice Chairwoman Senator Barbara Mikulski, and a bipartisan group of women leaders, the WSCC believes that in establishing the *Every Word We Utter Monument* in Washington, D.C., our country will have taken a vital step towards commemorating the history of the 19th Amendment, celebrating the story of the suffragists who demanded equality, and educating future generations of learners and changemakers about the power of civic engagement.

Suffragists began their organized fight for women's enfranchisement in 1848 when they demanded the right to vote during the first women's rights convention in Seneca Falls, New York. For the next 72 years, women leaders lobbied, marched, picketed, and protested for the right to the ballot. Fully ratified into the U.S. Constitution in 1920, the 19th Amendment granted access to the ballot for 27 million American women and marked the single largest expansion of voting rights in United States history. Today, more than 68 million women vote in elections because of the women and men who waged and won the fight for the vote.

The *Every Word We Utter Monument*, which features suffrage leaders Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Harriet Stanton Blatch, Susan B. Anthony, Sojourner Truth, Alice Paul, and Ida B. Wells, tells the story of American democracy, of an unprecedented movement for change, and of the diversity of thought and action so often forgotten in the history of the fight for the vote. We urge you to support HR 473/S.1705 and believe that with this vital public art, we have the opportunity to share the story of the 19th Amendment and ensure that the legacy of the suffragists is remembered and celebrated for the next 100 years.

Sincerely,

Kay Coles James
Chairwoman, WSCC

Senator Barbara Mikulski
Vice Chairwoman, WSCC