

STATE OF KANSAS  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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JEFF PITTMAN  
41ST DISTRICT

Mar 10, 2020

Chairman Barker and to the rest of the House Appropriations committee--

I introduced HB2650 Per request of the Leavenworth Historical Society,

I worked with the Governors office to declare Feb 15, 2020 as Susan B Anthony day, marking 100 years of the US 19th Amendment, guaranteeing women the right to vote. Ms Anthony's brother was a long term resident of Leavenworth and she spent quite a bit of time in Kansas while lobbying our government to make the change.

From the Leavenworth Times editorial on Jan 22, 2020

(<https://www.leavenworthtimes.com/opinion/20200122/editorial-100-years-after-getting-to-vote-women-must-run>):

Kansas was a critical state in the long struggle for passage of the amendment, which continues to have relevance for our political future.

Leading suffragettes came to Kansas as early as 1854 to cross the territory campaigning for universal suffrage. In 1867, Susan B. Anthony campaigned in Kansas for an amendment giving women and black men the right to vote, in spite of significant financial and physical hardship.

"We must not lose Kansas now," she wrote, "at least not from lack of work done according to our best ability."

Anthony and the Kansas suffragettes would lose that vote but continue to fight for Kansas. In 1912, they would make Kansas only the eighth state in America to grant the right to women.

Susan B Anthony was a leader for women. In creating this day, we strengthen the ideas laid out in our Kansas Preamble, namely "to insure the full enjoyment of our rights as American citizens". By granting the 15<sup>th</sup> of February Susan B Anthony day, we would be reinforcing those values to those that choose to make Kansas their home.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify,

Rep Jeff Pittman

Leavenworth, KS HD #41