



Written Statement of

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“Establishing a Commission to Study the Potential Creation of a National Women’s History Museum”

**United States House of Representatives
House Administration Committee**

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Chairwoman Miller, Ranking Member Brady, and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit input about establishing a commission to study the creation of a National Women’s History Museum.

On behalf of the approximately 170,000 bipartisan members and supporters of the American Association of University Women (AAUW), I am pleased to share AAUW’s perspective on this important issue. Since its founding in 1881, AAUW has been breaking through barriers for women and girls. Given our own long and storied history, we have a unique appreciation for the idea of a National Women's History Museum.

AAUW is a strong supporter of the legislation, "Commission to Study the Potential Creation of a National Women's History Museum Act of 2013" (H.R. 863), introduced by Rep. Carolyn Maloney (D-NY). The bill creates a Commission that would report to Congress about possible exhibits, fundraising capacity, locations, and costs for a National Women’s History Museum. In addition, the Commission would establish a plan of action including recommending necessary legislation to make such a museum a reality. AAUW believes that the House should take action on H.R. 863; its bipartisan plan strikes just the right note, and will work to find the most feasible ways to acknowledge the generations of women who played a role in shaping our communities and our nation.

A National Women’s History Museum, particularly on the National Mall, would forever mark the many accomplishments of extraordinary women in our country’s history. Perhaps more importantly it would also more fully showcase the daily contributions of American women in the remarkable history of our nation. From the most famous to the most typical, women have made meaningful and lasting contributions to the marketplace, laboratory, government, entertainment industry, classroom, home, and family. A visible location on the National Mall would underscore the importance of women to our nation's development, and inspire and educate visitors from around the world.

AAUW strongly supports H.R. 863 and is a proud member of the National Women's History Museum (NWHM) Coalition, a group of national women's professional and service organizations committed to supporting the NWHM mission. AAUW believes that your support to take steps towards building a National Women's History Museum will help send a message of inclusion nationwide and worldwide, and serve as an important symbol of our country's honor and respect for women and their contributions.

Again, I urge you to support the Commission to Study the Potential Creation of a National Women's History Museum Act of 2013 (H.R. 863).

Thank you for this opportunity. We are pleased to be working with you on this critical issue.