



Proponent Testimony (Written Only)

January 27, 2022

Dear Members of the Senate Committee on Federal and State Affairs,

We write to you today in support of SB 179, designating February 15 of each year as Susan B. Anthony Day in the state of Kansas.

The process of women winning the right to vote was a 70+-year long struggle and Susan B. Anthony played a critical role in the early movement. Raised in the Quaker tradition on the east coast, Anthony was a school teacher in her early life. As early as 1849, Anthony began working in the temperance, anti-slavery, and women's movements, eventually visiting Kansas in the 1860s when her brother, Daniel Anthony, relocated to Leavenworth. Throughout the late 1800s, Anthony visited Kansas several times to give speeches, talk to women and elected officials, and promote women's right to vote. While women in Kansas gained the ability to vote in school board elections in 1861 and municipal elections in 1887, efforts for full suffrage failed twice. Anthony died in 1906, missing the chance to see the fruit of her labors when Kansas women won the full right to vote in 1912. The rest of the country would follow with passage and ratification of the 19th Amendment in 1920.

In addition to her contributions to the suffrage movement, Susan B. Anthony, along with those champions of the cause who worked alongside her, laid the foundation for what would eventually become the League of Women Voters. As we celebrate our 102nd birthday on Feb. 14, 2022, we think it only fitting for our state to honor Anthony's legacy by designating her birthday of Feb. 15 as Susan B. Anthony Day.

Thank you for the chance to share about this courageous woman of renown with such strong connections to Kansas. Her work strengthened our democracy and that is something we can all respect and celebrate.

**Jacqueline Lightcap and Martha Pint**  
**Co-Presidents**

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League of Women Voters of Kansas

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