

PRESS RELEASE (with photos)

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PENNSYLVANIA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES PASSES HISTORIC RESOLUTION AIMED AT INCREASING THE NUMBER OF WOMEN SERVING ON BOARDS IN PENNSYLVANIA

State Rep. Kate Harper (R-Montgomery) sponsors resolution supported by The Forum of Executive Women of Greater Philadelphia

HARRISBURG, Pa. - The Pennsylvania House of Representatives passed a resolution yesterday that urges all public and private companies as well as nonprofit institutions doing business in Pennsylvania to have a minimum of 30 percent women directors by Dec. 31, 2020, and measure their progress annually toward a goal of equal representation of men and women in leadership positions.

The resolution, supported by The Forum of Executive Women of Greater Philadelphia and introduced to the House of Representatives by Rep. Kate Harper (R-Montgomery) and co-sponsored by a bipartisan group of representatives from across the state, was accepted by a unanimous vote of 189-0.

At a news conference held yesterday morning in advance of the House vote, Harper called upon businesses and nonprofit organizations to heed the call for gender diversity on their boards. "In my lifetime, women have made great strides, but an organization's board determines its direction and focus. Boards need women's voices, but sometimes they need a reminder of that," she stated. In attendance for the news conference and House vote were members of The Forum and representatives of constituencies around the state who support the resolution and its goal.

Speaker of the House Mike Turzai, a proponent of House Resolution 273, stood in solidarity with Harper and her co-sponsors at the news conference and shared his perspective on the importance of gender equality in corporate and nonprofit leadership, stating, "The hard work and dedication of professional

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women in business is just good for business, and our leaders and CEOs need to recognize that. Pennsylvania needs to be at the forefront, and I believe this resolution will have a positive impact throughout the business and nonprofit community.”

The April 26 vote is an important step in The Forum’s ongoing efforts to facilitate the service of women on the boards of directors of for-profit companies and nonprofit institutions. Suzanne Mayes, president, The Forum of Executive Women, remarked, “We are proud to have taken this giant step forward on behalf of the women of Pennsylvania who are ready, willing and able to serve on the boards of corporations and nonprofit institutions. We are grateful to Rep. Kate Harper, Speaker of the House Mike Turzai and their colleagues in the House of Representatives for recognizing the significance of this issue and taking action to see that the proposed resolution passed.”

About The Forum of Executive Women:

Founded in 1977, The Forum of Executive Women is the region's premier women's organization, actively working to increase the number of women in leadership roles, expand their impact and influence, and position them to drive positive change in the Greater Philadelphia region. For more information about The Forum of Executive Women visit www.FOEW.com.

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Editor’s Notes:

Interview opportunities are available with Rep. Harper and members of The Forum of Executive Women. To schedule an interview, please contact Debbie Goetz of Debbie Goetz Media Connections at 215-630-5408 or by email at dgoetz@dgmediconnections.com.

Video of the news conference can be found at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6PGy3rynwtk&feature=youtu.be>

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Photo Captions (Photos courtesy of Pennsylvania House Republican Caucus):



Photo # Harper 42: Rep. Kate Harper (R-Montgomery) addressed members of the media and attendees at a news conference in the rotunda of the Ryan Office Building in the State Capitol Complex on April 26 to announce a resolution supported by The Forum of Executive Women of Greater Philadelphia. The resolution urges for-profit businesses and nonprofit institutions doing business in Pennsylvania to have a minimum of 30 percent women directors by Dec. 31, 2020, and measure their progress annually toward a goal of equal representation of men and women in leadership positions. The resolution passed with a unanimous vote of 189-0. Pictured with Harper (front row, third from right) and supporters Marguerite Quinn (R-Montgomery) (front row, second from right) and Rep. Marcy Toepel (R-Montgomery) (front row, far left) are members of The Forum of Executive Women and representatives of constituencies around the state who support the resolution and its goal.

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Photo # Harper Quinn 01: Members of The Forum of Executive Women of Greater Philadelphia were photographed in House chambers with Rep. Kate Harper (R-Montgomery) and Rep. Marguerite Quinn (R-Bucks) before the House of Representatives unanimously voted in favor of House Resolution 273, which urges for-profit businesses and nonprofit institutions doing business in Pennsylvania to have a minimum of 30 percent women directors by Dec. 31, 2020 and measure their progress annually toward a goal of equal representation of men and women in leadership positions. In attendance for the news conference and House vote on April 26 were members of The Forum and representatives of constituencies around the state who support the resolution and its goal.

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