

## **111<sup>th</sup> Congress, First Session At-A-Glance**

### **Actions Completed**

**Adoption Incentives:** Congress passed the Providing Incentives for the Adoption of Children with Special Needs Act of 2009 (P.L. 111-20) (April 2009).

**Breast Cancer:** The Senate approved legislation (S. Res. 295) designating October 13, 2009, as National Metastatic Breast Cancer Awareness Day. The House passed a similar resolution (H. Res. 787) (October 2009).

The House approved a resolution (H. Res. 971) regarding recently released breast cancer screening guidelines for women age 40 to 49.

**Caroline O'Day:** Congress approved legislation (P.L. 111-150) to designate a U.S. Postal Service facility in Rye, New York, as the "Caroline O'Day Post Office Building" (August 2009).

**Defense Authorization:** Congress approved the conference report for the FY2010 Defense Authorization bill (P.L. 111-84) (October 2009). Among other provisions, the bill would address the issues of domestic violence and sexual assault in the military, as well as the needs of military families.

**Domestic Violence:** The House passed a resolution (H. Res. 817) in support of National Domestic Violence Awareness Month. The Senate passed a similar resolution (S. Res. 327) (October 2009).

**Economic Stimulus:** Congress approved legislation (P.L. 111-5) that, among other provisions, would provide additional money to public health, early childhood education, and nutrition programs. The bill also would extend the Transitional Medical Assistance Program (P.L. 109-432) until December 2010, and increase the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and the refundable child tax credit (February 2009).

**Equal Pay:** Congress passed the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act (P.L. 111-2) (January 2009).

**Family and Medical Leave:** Congress passed the Airline Flight Crew Technical Corrections Act (P.L. 111-119). The bill would clarify the Family and Medical Leave Act's (FMLA) (P.L. 103-3) eligibility requirements with respect to flight crews (December 2009).

**Geraldine Ferraro:** Congress approved legislation (P.L. 111-150) to designate a U.S. Postal Service facility in Long Island City, New York, as the "Congresswoman Geraldine Ferraro Post Office Building" (August 2009).

**Girl Scouts:** Congress approved P.L. 111-86, an act to mint \$1 coins commemorating the 100th anniversary of the Girl Scouts USA.

**Guinea:** The Senate Foreign Relations Committee approved S. Res. 345, a resolution deploring the rape and violence in Guinea (November 2009).

**Hate Crimes:** The House approved the Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act of 2009 (H.R. 1913) (April 2009). Congress incorporated the provisions of the bill into the FY2010 National Defense Authorization Act (October 2009) (P.L. 111-84).

**HIV/AIDS:** Congress approved the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Treatment Extension Act (P.L. 111-87) (October 2009).

**Infant Mortality:** The House passed a resolution (H. Res. 260) "supporting efforts to reduce infant mortality in the United States" (September 2009).

**International Women's Day:** The House approved a resolution (H. Res. 194) supporting the goals of International Women's Day (March 2009).

**National Women's History Month:** The House approved a resolution (H. Res. 211) that "recognizes and honors the women and organizations in the United States that have fought for, and continue to promote, the teaching of women's history" (March 2009).

**Ovarian Cancer:** The Senate approved S. Res. 267, which supports the goals and ideals of National Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month (September 2009). The House approved an identical resolution (H. Res. 727) in December.

**Pakistan:** Congress passed the Enhanced Partnership with Pakistan Act (P.L. 111-73). The measure includes provisions to support the education and empowerment of women (September 2009).

**Sexual Assault:** Congress passed H. Con. Res. 104, a resolution supporting National Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month (April 2009).

**Stalking:** The House approved a resolution (H. Res. 82) to raise awareness and encourage the prevention of stalking by designating January 2009 as National Stalking Awareness Month (February 2009).

**State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) Reauthorization:** Congress approved legislation (P.L. 111-3) to reauthorize SCHIP through 2013 (February 2009).

**Teen Dating Violence:** The House passed a resolution (H. Res. 103) supporting National Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Week (February 2009).

**Tobacco Regulation:** Congress passed the Family Smoking Prevention Act (P.L. 111-31) (June 2009).

**Violence Against Women:** The House passed H. Res. 738, marking the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Violence Against Women Act (P.L. 103-322) (September 2009).

**Volunteering:** Congress approved the Generations Invigorating Volunteerism and Education (GIVE) Act (P.L. 111-13) (April 2009). Among other provisions, the legislation prohibits approved national service organizations from providing or referring for abortion services.

**Women's Rights Trail:** Congress approved legislation (P.L. 111-11) to, among other provisions, create a "Votes for Women" trail in the Women's Rights National Historical Park in Seneca, New York (March 2009).

**Women in the Military:** The House passed a resolution honoring the service of women members of the armed forces (H. Res. 868).

**Women Veterans:** Congress approved legislation (P.L. 111-40) to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the Women Airforce Service Pilots ("WASP") (June 2009).

### **Outstanding Actions**

**Afghan Women:** The Senate Foreign Relations Committee passed S. Con. Res. 19, a resolution condemning Afghanistan's Shi'ite Personal Status Law (May 2009). A similar provision was included in the Foreign Relations Authorization Act (H.R. 2410), which the House passed in June.

**AIDS in Prison:** The House approved the Stop AIDS in Prison Act (H.R. 1429) (March 2009).

**Child Care Liability:** The House approved the Anthony DeJuan Boatwright Act (H.R. 1662) (June 2009). The measure would amend the Child Care Development Block Grant of 1990 (P.L. 101-508) to require child care providers to post "publicly and conspicuously" information regarding whether they carry current liability insurance.

**Child Support:** The Senate Foreign Affairs Committee approved The Hague Convention on International Recovery of Child Support and Other Forms of Family Maintenance (Treaty Doc.110-21) (November 2009).

**Coast Guard:** The House passed H.R. 3619, the Coast Guard Reauthorization Act (October 2009). The measure contains provisions regarding sexual assault in the Coast Guard and cruise line safety.

**Colorectal Cancer:** The House passed H. Con. Res. 60, a resolution supporting the observance of Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month (April 2009).

**Cruise Vessel Safety:** The House passed the Cruise Vessel Security and Safety Act (H.R. 3360). The bill would address, among other provisions, sexual assault on board cruise ships (November 2009).

**Employment:** The House passed the Jobs for Main Street Act (H.R. 2847). The bill contains provisions regarding the child tax credit and updating the federal poverty line.

**Family and Medical Leave:** The House approved the Federal Employees Paid Parental Leave Act of 2009 (H.R. 626) (June 2009).

**Foreign Affairs Reauthorization:** The House approved the Foreign Relations Authorization Act for FY2010 and FY2011 (H.R. 2410) (June 2009). The measure, among other provisions, would permanently authorize the creation of an Office for Global Women's Issues at the State Department and urges the president of Afghanistan to reject the Shi'ite Personal Status Law.

**Global Food Security:** The Senate Foreign Relations Committee approved the Global Food Security Act of 2009 (S. 384) (April 2009).

**Health Care Reform:** The House Education and Labor, Energy and Commerce, and Ways and Means Committees approved America's Affordable Health Choices Act (H.R. 3200) in July 2009.

The House incorporated the provisions of H.R. 3200 into H.R. 3962, the Affordable Health Care for America Act, and passed the measure in November. The measure contains provisions regarding preventive care – including maternal, well baby and well child care – abortion, domestic violence, and the Office on Women’s Health, among others.

The Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee approved the Affordable Health Choices Act (S. 1679), in June 2009. The Senate Finance Committee approved its health care reform bill, the America’s Healthy Future Act (S. 1796), in October 2009.

The Senate incorporated many of the provisions of S. 1679 and S. 1796 into H.R. 3590, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (H.R. 3590), which the Senate passed in December. That bill also contains provisions regarding abortion, access to preventive care, maternal and child health, and Medicaid.

**Homeless Veterans:** The House approved the Homeless Veterans Reintegration Reauthorization Act (H.R. 1171) (March 2009). Among other provisions, the bill would establish grants for programs and facilities that provide job training, counseling, placement, and child care services to women veterans and homeless veterans with children.

**Housing:** The House Financial Services Committee approved H.R. 3045, the Section 8 Voucher Reform Act (July 2009). Among other provisions, the bill would authorize funding for family self-sufficiency activities for low-income families in connection with rental or homeownership assistance provided under the Housing Innovation Program (HIP), formerly known as Moving to Work.

**Indian Health:** The Senate Indian Affairs Committee approved the Indian Health Care Improvement Reauthorization and Extension Act (S. 1790) (December 2009).

**Juvenile Justice:** The House Judiciary Committee approved the Youth Prison Reduction through Opportunities, Mentoring, Intervention, Support, and Education (PROMISE) Act (H.R. 1064) (December 2009). The measure contains gender-based provisions.

**Missing Children:** The House passed the A Child is Missing Alert and Recovery Center Act (H.R. 1933) (July 2009).

**National Women’s History Museum:** The House passed the National Women’s History Museum Act (H.R. 1700) (October 2009).

**Postpartum Depression:** The House approved the Melanie Blocker-Stokes Mom’s Opportunity to Access Health, Education, Research, and Support (MOTHERS) for Postpartum Depression Act (H.R. 20) (April 2009).

**Sexual Assault:** The Senate Judiciary Committee passed the Improving Assistance to Domestic and Sexual Violence Victims Act of 2009 (S. 327) (May 2009).

**Small Business Administration (SBA) Extension:** Congress approved legislation (P.L. 111-10) to extend SBA programs, including the Women’s Business Centers, the National Women’s Business Council, and Small Business Development Center programs, as well as the 8(a), HUBZone, Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR), and veterans lending programs (March 2009). A second extension, P.L. 111-43, was approved in July 2009. The president signed into law a third extension in September 2009 (P.L. 111-66). Congress approved P.L. 111-89 to extend the programs until January 31, 2010 (October 2009).

**Women and Business:** The House passed the Women's Business Centers Improvements Act (H.R. 1838) (November 2009). Many of the provisions of H.R. 1838 also were incorporated into H.R. 2352, the Job Creation Through Entrepreneurship Act, which the House passed in May 2009.

The House also passed the Small Business Microlending Expansion Act (H.R. 3737), which requires the Small Business Administration to report on the number of microloans made to women-owned small businesses, among others (November 2009).

The Senate Small Business and Entrepreneurship Committee approved the Entrepreneurial Development Act (S. 1229) (June 2009). S. 1229 would reauthorize the Women's Business Centers (WBC) program and the National Women's Business Council, among others. The bill would authorize \$20 million in FY2010, \$20.5 million in FY2011, and \$21 million in FY2012 for the WBC program.

The House approved the American Energy and Security Act (H.R. 2454) (June 2009). Among other provisions, the bill would authorize \$50 million per year for FY2010-2015 to establish a program that would allow the secretary of Energy to make grants to women-owned businesses and entrepreneurs to reduce environmental degradation, foster energy conservation and efficiency, and create job and business opportunities for local residents.

In July 2009, the House passed the Enhancing Small Business Research and Innovation Act (H.R. 2965). Among other provisions, the bill would authorize \$10 million in FY2010 and FY2011 to award grants to organizations that assist participants in the Small Business Innovation Research and the Small Business Technology Transfer programs, including those controlled by women. The Senate also approved the measure in July 2009.

The House passed the Expanding Entrepreneurship Act (H.R. 1842) in November. The bill seeks to increase opportunities for small businesses, including those owned by women.

**Women's Health Week:** The House passed H. Con. Res. 120, a resolution supporting National Women's Health Week (May 2009).

**Women Veterans:** The Senate Veterans Affairs Committee approved the Veterans Health Care Authorization Act of 2009 (S. 252) (May 2009). The measure contains provisions requiring the secretary of Veterans Affairs to study the barriers, including a lack of child care, women veterans face in accessing mental health and sexual assault services.

The House approved a similar measure, the Women Veterans Health Care Improvement Act (H.R. 1211) in June 2009.