

## **111<sup>th</sup> Congress 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 revised breast cancer screening guidelines for women age 40 to 49 (December 2009).

The House passed a resolution (H. Res. 708) congratulating Ambassador Nancy Goodman Brinker for receiving the Presidential Medal of Freedom. Nancy Brinker is the founder of the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure (January 2010).

The House passed a resolution (H. Con. Res. 158) urging support for the designation of Early Detection Month for breast and other forms of cancer (January 2010). The Senate passed the measure in February.

The House passed a resolution supporting the designation of Hereditary Breast and Ovarian Cancer Week and National Previvor Day (H. Res. 1522) (September 2010).

**Cervical Cancer:** The House passed a resolution (H. Res. 1011) to recognize the importance of cervical health and early cancer detection and to support Cervical Health Awareness Month (January 2010).

**Child Abduction:** The House passed a resolution (H. Res. 1326) calling on Japan to address the issue of child abduction and to adopt the 1980 Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction (September 2010).

**Child Support:** The Senate approved The Hague Convention on International Recovery of Child Support and Other Forms of Family Maintenance (Treaty Doc.110-21) (September 2010).

**Coast Guard:** Congress passed P.L. 111-281, the Coast Guard Reauthorization Act (September 2010). The measure contains provisions regarding sexual assault in the Coast Guard.

**Cruise Vessel Safety:** Congress passed the Cruise Vessel Security and Safety Act (P.L. 111-207). The bill would address, among other provisions, sexual assault on board cruise ships (June 2010). The provisions relating to sexual assault on cruise ships were incorporated into P.L. 111-281, the Coast Guard Reauthorization Act.

**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.

Congress approved the FY2011 Defense Authorization bill (H.R. 6523), which contains provisions relating to military sexual assault, career counseling for military spouses, and extends health care coverage for troops' dependent children until age 26 (December 2010).

**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).

The House approved a similar resolution (H. Res. 1637) in September 2010.

**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).

**Employment:** Congress passed the Jobs for Main Street Act (P.L. 111-147). The bill contains provisions regarding the child tax credit and updating the federal poverty level (March 2010).

**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 (P.L. 103-3) eligibility requirements with respect to flight crews (December 2009).

**Family Violence:** Congress passed the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (P.L. 111-320), which would reauthorize several laws pertaining to child and family abuse prevention and treatment – the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (P.L. 98-457), the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (P.L. 93-247), the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment and Adoption Reform Act (P.L. 95-266), and the Abandoned Infants Assistance Act (P.L. 100-505) (December 2010).

**Father's Day:** The House passed a resolution (H. Res. 1389) recognizing Father's Day (June 2010).

**Fetal Alcohol Syndrome:** The Senate passed a resolution to recognize National Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders Awareness Day (S. Res. 612) (August 2010).

**Food Security:** Congress approved the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act (P.L. 111-296). The bill would reauthorize the Child Nutrition Program, as well as the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), and the National School Lunch and Breakfast programs, among others. (December 2010).

**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 (October 2009).

**Guinea:** The Senate passed S. Res. 345, a resolution deploring the rape and violence in Guinea (February 2010).

**Gynecological Cancers:** Congress approved the Gynecological Cancer Education and Awareness Act (P.L. 111-324) (December 2010).

**Health Care:** Congress approved the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (P.L. 111-148). The measure contains provisions of several bills, including the Breast Cancer Education and Awareness Requires Learning Young Act or EARLY Act (H.R. 1740) and the Women's Health Office Act (H.R. 3242). The law includes provisions regarding preventive care – including maternal, well baby and well child care – abortion, abstinence funding, domestic violence, and Medicaid, among others (March 2010).

**Dorothy Height:** The House passed a resolution (H. Res. 1281) honoring Dr. Dorothy Height (April 2010). The Senate passed a similar resolution (S. Res. 492) as well.

Congress passed P.L. 111-310, a bill to designate a U.S. Postal Service facility in Washington, D.C., as the "Dorothy I. Height Post Office."

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

**Human Trafficking:** The House approved a resolution, H. Res. 1412, congratulating South Africa on its successful convictions for human trafficking (July 2010).

**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).

**Mother's Day:** The House passed a resolution (H. Res. 1295) celebrating the role of mothers and supporting the goals of Mother's Day (May 2010).

**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).

The House approved a similar resolution (H. Res. 1174) in March 2010.

**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.

The Senate approved a similar resolution (S. Res. 555) in August 2010.

**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).

**Science:** Congress passed the America COMPETES Act (H.R. 5116), which would reauthorize programs at the National Science Foundation, National Institute of Standards and Technology, and the Departments of Energy and Commerce. The bill contains provisions to establish workshops designed to eliminate gender bias in academic science and engineering programs (December 2010).

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

The House and Senate passed resolutions supporting National Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month, H. Res. 1259 and S. Res. 501, respectively (April 2010).

The House passed a resolution (H. Res. 716) recognizing the efforts of Gail Abarbanel to end sexual violence against women (November 2010).

**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).

The House approved a resolution (H. Res. 960) to designate January 2010 as National Stalking Awareness Month (February 2010).

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

**STEM Education:** The House passed a resolution (H. Res. 1213) recognizing the need to improve the participation and performance of America's students in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields and supporting the ideals of National Lab Day (May 2010).

Congress approved the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Authorization Act (P.L. 111-267), which contains provisions to encourage women in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) (September 2010).

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

The Senate approved a resolution (S. Res. 373) to designate February as National Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month (January 2010). The House approved an identical resolution (H. Res. 1081) in March 2010.

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

**C. DeLores Tucker:** The House passed a resolution honoring the life of women's rights activist C. DeLores Tucker (H. Res. 1094) (May 2010).

**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).

Congress passed the Indian Arts and Crafts Amendments Act (P.L. 111-211), which incorporates provisions of the Tribal Law and Order Act and includes provisions to combat violence against women (July 2010).

**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.

**Wilma Mankiller:** The House passed a resolution, H. Res. 1237, honoring the life of Wilma Pearl Mankiller, the first woman to serve as principal chief of the Cherokee nation (April 2010).

**Women's Health:** The House and Senate passed versions of a resolution supporting National Women's Health Week, H. Con. Res. 120 and S. Res. 144, respectively (May 2009).

Congress passed resolutions (H. Con. Res. 268 and S. Res. 530) supporting National Women's Health Week (May 2010).

The Senate passed a resolution (S. Res. 695) recognizing the 20th anniversary of the National Institutes of Health Office of Research on Women's Health (December 2010).

**Women in the Military:** The House passed a resolution honoring the service of women members of the armed forces (H. Res. 868) (November 2009).

**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's Suffrage:** The House approved a resolution (H. Res. 1375) recognizing the 90th anniversary of the enactment of the 19th amendment, which granted women the right to vote (September 2010).

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

In April 2010, Congress passed the Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act (P.L. 111-163). The bill contains several provisions relating to the health care of women veterans.

### **Outstanding Actions**

**Afghan Women:** The Senate 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). The measure would develop a comprehensive policy to provide pre- and post-test HIV counseling, prevention, and treatment for inmates in federal prisons, including pregnant women.

**Birth Defects:** The House approved the Birth Defects Prevention, Risk Reduction, and Awareness Act (H.R. 5462) (September 2010).

**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 Custody:** The House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity approved H.R. 4469, a bill to protect child custody arrangements for parents in the armed forces and deployed in support of military contingency operations (July 2010).

**Child Marriage:** The Senate approved the International Protecting Girls by Preventing Child Marriage Act (S. 987) (December 2010).

**Child Protection:** In December, the House passed the Protecting Students from Sexual and Violent Predators Act (H.R. 6547).

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

**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.

The Senate Foreign Relations Committee approved its version of the measure (S. 2971) in April 2010.

**Gestational Diabetes:** The House passed the Gestational Diabetes (GEDI) Act (H.R. 5354) (September 2010).

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

**Heart Disease:** The House approved the Heart Disease, Education, Analysis Research, and Treatment (HEART) for Women Act (H.R. 1032) (September 2010).

**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.

**Human Trafficking:** The Senate Foreign Relations Committee passed the Child Protection Compact Act (S. 3184) in September 2010. The bill would authorize the United States to help countries protect children from trafficking or sexual exploitation.

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

**Infant Mortality:** The House approved the Nationally Enhancing the Wellbeing of Babies through Outreach and Research Now (NEWBORN) Act (H.R. 3470) (September 2010).

**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.

**Methamphetamine:** The House approved the Methamphetamine Education, Treatment, and Hope Act (H.R. 2818). The measure would provide residential substance abuse treatment services for pregnant and parenting women addicted to methamphetamine. Such services would be available to low-income pregnant and parenting women and those in health disparity populations (September 2010).

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

The Senate Judiciary Committee approved H.R. 1933, the A Child is Missing Alert and Recovery Center Act (July 2010).

**Mother's Day:** The House approved H.R. 2421, the Mother's Day Centennial Commemorative Coin Act (May 2010).

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

The Senate Environment and Public Works Committee approved the House and Senate versions of the bill (H.R. 1700 and S. 2129, respectively) in April 2010.

**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).

**Sex Offenders:** The House approved H.R. 5138, the International Megan's Law of 2010, which would require individuals convicted of sex offenses to register on an international sex offender registry before traveling internationally (July 2010).

**Sex Trafficking:** The Senate passed the Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking Deterrence and Victims Support Act (S. 2925) (December 2010). The House passed an amended version of the bill in December 2010.

**Stalking:** The House approved the Simplifying the Ambiguous Law, Keeping Everyone Reliably Safe (STALKERS) Act (H.R. 5662) in July 2010.

**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 House approved the American Energy and Security Act (H.R. 2454) (June 2009). Among other provisions, the bill would 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 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 passed a similar measure (S. 1233) in July 2009.

The House passed the Expanding Entrepreneurship Act (H.R. 1842) in November 2009. The bill seeks to increase opportunities for small businesses, including those owned by women.

**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.

The House passed H.R. 5953, a bill to direct the secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to display in each VA facility a Women Veterans Bill of Rights (December 2010).

**Work-Life Balance:** The House rejected the Work-Life Balance Award Act (H.R. 4855). The vote fell short of the two-thirds majority required for passage under suspension of the rules. The bill would establish at the Department of Labor an award for employers who develop and implement work-life balance policies (June 2010).