

AMERICAN HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

Organized 1884

Incorporated by the Congress 1889

April 1, 2014

The American Historical Association (AHA) would like to comment on H.R. 863, the Commission to Study the Potential Creation of a National Women's History Museum Act of 2013, which the Committee on House Administration will markup on Wednesday, April 2.

The Association is concerned that the current administration of the 501 (c) (3) organization promoting the construction of a National Women's History Museum in Washington, DC seems insufficiently aware of the importance of including qualified scholars in the field of women's history in the planning process. On March 14, the organization disbanded its Scholarly Advisory Council, which was made up of 18 leading historians of women's history. The Association is also concerned that the legislation, as written, does not stipulate that any historians or museum professionals be appointed to the eight-member bipartisan commission to be established by the legislation. We strongly believe that any project to create a new national history museum should involve professional historians from the outset. Interpreting the past is vital to democratic debate and civic life, and scholars experienced in investigating and interpreting the past should be part of that process.

The American Historical Association is a nonprofit membership organization founded in 1884 and incorporated by the United States Congress in 1889 for the promotion of historical studies and the dissemination of historical research. As a disciplinary association representing over 14,000 historians, we support and encourage efforts to recognize women's history and interpret it to the public. If there are ways in which the AHA can be of further assistance, please feel free to get in touch.

Respectfully,



Jan Goldstein
President



James Grossman
Executive Director