

Why is this bill named after Elizabeth Cady Stanton?

Elizabeth Cady Stanton (1815-1902) is widely recognized as the mother of the women's movement. She was also the mother of seven children, and advocated access to higher education for women.

Active in the abolition movement, Stanton and Lucretia Mott attended the World Anti-Slavery Convention in London in 1840. Although Mott was an official delegate to the convention, she and Stanton were denied participation in the convention solely because of their sex. They were allowed to stay as long as they sat behind a screen, out of sight.

Being denied the right to participate in the anti-slavery convention because she and Mott were women convinced Stanton that a convention was needed to advocate women's rights.

In 1848 Stanton spearheaded the now legendary Seneca Falls Convention, and launched the women's movement. In her Declaration of Rights and Sentiments Stanton presented a number of resolutions, including the boldest of all—the right of women to vote.

Susan B. Anthony missed the 1848 convention. The woman who would become the great suffrage organizer was busy taking care of other women's children: she was a teacher. Together, Stanton and Anthony became the driving force of the suffrage movement, and they exhibited creative teamwork in their labors. Stanton wrote about the need for women's rights while Anthony took care of her children. Anthony traveled to speak when Stanton took occasional breaks from the movement to focus on the needs of her growing family.

In Elizabeth Cady Stanton's era, pregnant women typically remained out of view—in "confinement"—and children "arrived" with little remark. This did not suit the uncompromising Stanton. The mother of the women's movement celebrated her maternity and challenged the culture to accept and support mothering. When Stanton gave birth to her daughter Harriot, she sent glad tidings to Lucretia Mott: "Rejoice with me all Womankind for lo! a champion of thy cause is born!" Within a day she went out for a drive to enjoy the fine weather. Upon giving birth to her seventh child, she raised a flag in front of her Seneca Falls home in celebration. Stanton raised Victorian eyebrows by publicly savoring motherhood.

Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Susan B. Anthony and Lucretia Mott did not live long enough to see their cherished dream of women's suffrage come true. But they did live to see women finally admitted to colleges and universities, a portent of progress to come.

Today these three women are enshrined in the Portrait monument displayed in the rotunda of the U.S. Capitol.

Honor Stanton's impassioned commitment to women's rights and education and her celebration of motherhood by supporting today's pregnant and parenting students.

**Call, email or fax your Senators and Representative about S.1966/H.R. 4265
Elizabeth Cady Stanton Pregnant and Parenting Students Services Act of 2005.**

*Elizabeth Cady Stanton (L)
Susan B. Anthony (R)*

refuse to choose

**Women Deserve Better
than Abortion**

FEMINISTS FOR LIFE.org

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