

## In History ...

The Chamber joined the nation in commemorating two significant historic milestones last month, the 100th anniversary of women's suffrage and the 57th anniversary of the March on Washington.

### ***Celebrating Women and Looking Toward the Future***

As Americans celebrated Women's Equality Day, the Chamber highlighted the progress women have made—and the gaps that must be closed to create equal economic opportunities for all women.

**The data:** A new [Chamber poll](#) released last month shows that COVID-19 has disproportionately affected female-owned small businesses. Female-owned small businesses are more likely than their male counterparts to report a decline in the overall health of their businesses since the start of the pandemic, and they do not anticipate as quick a recovery.

**Extending opportunity:** We cannot let the pandemic set back a generation of entrepreneurial women. The Chamber continues advocating for aid to small businesses in the Phase 4 COVID-19 relief package that would help close these gender-based gaps. Read more about our poll and the Chamber's work to shed light on the challenges disproportionately affecting female-owned small businesses [here](#).

### ***Honoring the March on Washington Through Action***

It was 57 years ago when hundreds of thousands of Americans joined the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom. We have made great strides as a society since that historic event through the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and more, but those participants more than half a century ago were united by a cause that should still command our attention today—closing race-based opportunity gaps.

**Our partnership:** The heads of the four leading Black business associations joined the Chamber in calling on our federal leaders to take action to help further close opportunity gaps for Black Americans. Read our statement [here](#) and an op-ed from Rick Wade, vice president of Strategic Alliances and Outreach, [here](#).

**Next steps:** We continue to put the weight of the Chamber behind our Equality of Opportunity Initiative to help close race-based opportunity gaps in education, employment, entrepreneurship, and criminal justice. Learn more about our policy agenda, national summit, related initiatives, and more [here](#).