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April 2, 1917.

To our Presidents:

I am writing this letter on the eve of the opening of Congress. In the confusion and excitement of this momentous period, and in the conflict of opinion as to the action which should or should not be taken, there will be those to urge the cessation of suffrage activity. It is possible of course that our nation may go on a war footing, which will mean that thousands of our women will heed the various appeals for help and drop suffrage work in the belief that nothing effective can be accomplished now.

On the contrary, we ought to make the most stupendous appeal to Congress yet made for the immediate submission of the Federal Amendment, and we invite your most urgent co-operation to this end.

In view of the fact that Canada has enfranchised the women of three-fourths of its provinces within a year; that the British Government, led by Premier Lloyd George and ex-Premier Asquith, has given public assurance in the House of Commons that they will give the vote to British women; that two of the three parties in Russia have promised the vote to women under the new government and that "votes for women" are being discussed along with proposed widening of the franchise for men in Germany, it behooves this country of ours to awake, lest the tortoise beat the hare in the race toward political freedom for all.

The only way this can be accomplished quickly is by the Federal Amendment route. The cherished tradition of state rights so honestly believed by many, but so cleverly supported by every enemy of the cause, should be thrown aside in the emergency of this opportunity for nation-wide action. These foreign developments have made an utterly new condition here. Do not underestimate its effect. Let us make a new slogan and pass it all along the line.