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, January 4, 1918.

Hon. Dan Garrett,
House of Representatives,
Washington, D. C.

My Dear Mr. Garrett:

Recent newspaper advices indicate that an effort is being made to influence the vote in Congress by making it appear that the woman's vote would join the pro-German vote, and thus endanger the success of the war.

If this were not such arrant nonsense on the face of it, it would certainly be the deadliest insult that has ever been offered to American womanhood, to impugn her loyalty to our country and our flag, - the country and flag to the making of which American womanhood, from the earliest colonial days up to this present time, has given the best that is in her to give. For, bear in mind that America is not the country we love and loyally defend today by the service and sacrifice of men alone, but by the service and sacrifice of men and women who, side by side, met and overcame the dangers and hardships of pioneer days; side by side built up and supported the institutions we love. And that is as it should be.

Permit me to call your attention to some of the state-wide organizations in Texas that have endorsed Suffrage; The Texas Federation of Women's Clubs; The Mothers' Congress; The Texas Press Women; the Texas Christian Temperance Union; the Texas State Federation of Labor; (this latter organization not only made Suffrage a preferred measure for their legislative work but have put the demand for it in their constitution;) and the Farmers' Congress.

It is not a possible thing that you should believe all or even a majority of the women in these organizations are pro-German in their sympathies, or that they are so stupid as not to see, however peace loving they may be, (and indeed as a nation, men and women, we are peace loving, therefore fight we for a lasting peace,) that talking for peace now would be to give "aid and comfort" to our enemies. Therefore we look to our Texas men to rise in their chivalry and, on the floor of the House or off, to

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defend the womanhood of the state and nation from this dastardly slander. And if any further proof is needed than what you actually know of, women's service, and loyalty to the nation, in peace and in war, why I can point you to two men in the Texas delegation in Congress whose constituency is largely composed of alien enemies who are legal voters, who are not going to vote for Suffrage in Congress, and the reason they give is that their constituents are opposed to it! Do you think if those constituents believed women were pro-German that they would be against Suffrage?

Please remember that under the constitution of Texas the foreign born man may vote by declaring his intention to at some future time become a citizen of the United States of America, though our boys who water the Army and Navy in defense of our country are at once disfranchised. This leaves the American woman in a position about which she is not only beginning to be alarmed, in certain sections of the state, but beginning to resent bitterly as having to appeal to alien enemies for American rights and privileges. This is one reason why we prefer the Federal Amendment at this time to a state campaign, - we escape this indignity. And true American men should be glad to relieve us of it.

We hope that your vote on January tenth will be a vote for democracy at home and abroad, and beg you to bear in mind that a Federal Amendment for Suffrage interferes with no right that any state enjoys, particularly not that of limiting its suffrage by qualifying its voting citizenship, but simply makes those qualifications apply to both sexes, - (you know sex is not a "qualification" but an insuperable barrier.) Rather is the right to have submitted to it, for ratification, amendments to the constitution for which there is a large demand, one of the highest rights the states enjoy, as was pointed out by Mr Webb, of North Carolina, I believe, in the debate on the prohibition amendment!

Very sincerely yours,

MFC-EHL

President.