

# American Association of University Women

Youngstown, Ohio Branch

Feb. 22, 1937

Hon. Charles Evans Hughes,  
Chief Justice,  
The Supreme Court of the United States,  
Washington, D. C.

Sir:

The Youngstown, Ohio, Branch of American Association of University Women begs leave to present herewith a copy of a resolution recently approved by a majority of its members, in token of our respect for our Supreme Court and for your Associates and Yourself.

Yours very respectfully,

PRESIDENT

CHAIRMAN OF LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE.

WHEREAS, the President of the United States has recently requested Congress to pass a law authorizing him to increase the number of Justices of the Supreme Court from nine to not in excess of fifteen; and

WHEREAS, the framers of the Constitution established a system of checks and balances by creating three distinct and independent branches of our government, executive, legislative, and judicial, with absolutely no right in any one of these to encroach on the powers and jurisdiction of the others; and

WHEREAS, the granting of such authority would give the President power to appoint additional members subservient to his dictation, and thus to destroy the independence of the Supreme Court; and

WHEREAS, we are just emerging from the greatest depression this country has ever seen, and the Congress of the United States, recognizing the emergency, granted great and far-reaching powers to the President which are necessary during such emergency but which may become the subject of abuse after the emergency has passed; and, as a result of such powers, the Supreme Court has been and now is the only curb to protect the people of the United States from a virtual dictatorship and the granting of this authority, whereby the President would be in a position to control the Supreme Court of the United States, would remove the last bulwark of our protection; now therefore be it

RESOLVED that the Youngstown Branch of the American Association of University Women express their profound concern, and irrevocable disapproval of the passage of the proposed legislation granting the President authority to increase the number of members of the Supreme Court or to interfere with the Supreme Court in any other way; that copies of this resolution be forwarded to the Hon. Robert J. Bulkley and the Hon. Vic Donahey, United States Senators from Ohio and to the Hon. Harold G. Mosier and the Hon. John McSweeney, Congressmen at large, and the Hon. Michael J. Kirwan, Congressman from the nineteenth Congressional District; that they severally be urged to oppose such legislation; and be it further

RESOLVED that the American Association of University Women be urged to adopt a similar resolution and to present the same to all Senators and Members of Congress, to the President of the United States, and to the Justices of the Supreme Court.