

## **The Story Behind the Susan B. Anthony Dollar**

(Adapted from Lianna Spurrier's article of January 22, 2019 on [coinweek.com](http://coinweek.com))

Large dollar coins have never been overly successful in the United States. The Susan B. Anthony dollar was supposed to be the Goldilocks solution - just the right size, just the right design - to finally get a dollar coin to circulate in the US.

In May of 1975, the government took the first step towards issuing a small dollar coin. The Treasury originally wanted the new coin to feature Lady Liberty. However, when the Treasury announced their plans for the new coin, women's organizations began to push for it to feature a real woman. There had never been a real woman on any of the nation's circulating coinage, and they believed that it was about time.

Susan B. Anthony was the front runner for this. Born in 1820, she was a champion of equal rights throughout her entire life. She combatted slavery as a young adult, but she is mainly known for her work in the women's suffrage movement. She played a key role in the passage of the Nineteenth Amendment, which gave women the right to vote.

The bill calling for the new dollar to feature Susan B. Anthony passed in both the House and Senate. On October 10, 1978, President Jimmy Carter signed the bill into law, and it was time for production to begin.