



January 9, 2023

Dear Representative Richardson,

On behalf of Girls Taking Action, a program of The Power of People Leadership Institute serving 500 mostly Black and Brown girls grades 6 – 12 across the Twin Cities and St. Cloud, I am writing in support of HF55 to establish a Missing and Murdered Black Women and Girls Office. Girls Taking Action was founded in 2007. Our mission is to motivate, empower and educate girls about the importance of understanding their personal power, achieving academically, actualizing their personal leadership, creating positive social change in their local community, and developing a career plan that includes post-secondary education. In the last 16 years, we have impacted over 5,000 middle and high school girls with 98% of them graduating high school on time and 80% attending college.

Girls Taking Action is committed to helping to build bright futures and understands that there are many forces at play that creates risks to that vision for our young girls and young adults. The crisis of missing and murdered Black women and girls is devastating our communities and it is incumbent that there be a community response. The estimate is that there are more than 60,000 Black women and girls missing in the United States and many families that have no answers. With increasing rates of domestic violence and frightening data in Minnesota that Black women are three times more likely to die of homicide we need dedicated investments to address this crisis. That is why we urge the adoption of HF55.

Thank you for accepting this letter of support on behalf of Girls Taking Action and our 500 girls, of which 70% are Black Girls.

Sincerely,

Verna Cornelia Price, Ph.D.



Founder/President