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Rep. Kelly Moller  
509 State Office Building  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Chair Moller:

Gender Justice envisions a world where everyone can thrive regardless of their gender, gender expression, or sexual orientation. Step by step, we're creating that world by dismantling legal, structural, and cultural barriers that contribute to gender inequity. We work to ensure that people of all genders have a meaningful right to bodily autonomy, safety, health, and opportunity.

We are writing today in support of HF55, which would create an office for missing and murdered Black women and girls.. We know that in the United States it is estimated that between 64,000 and 75,000 Black women and girls are missing and that these cases stay open four times longer than those of other missing women. Here in Minnesota, Black women make up only 4% of the population, but represent 40% of domestic violence victims.

Creating an office for missing and murdered Black women and girls will help address these disparities by dedicating resources, increasing media coverage and coordinating better law enforcement response. In addition, this office will help us understand the root causes of violence toward Black women and girls, while providing support for victims of domestic violence and focusing on violence prevention.

Passing HF55 and establishing an office for missing and murdered Black women and girls will be a step in the right direction towards a Minnesota that protects all women and gender-expansive people. We urge you to support this bill.

Sincerely,

Tana Hargest  
Deputy Director, Gender Justice