

Dear Members of the Minnesota House and Senate:

We urge your support for HF55/SF 19 to create and fund a permanent Office of Missing and Murdered Black Women and Girls.

As the work of the Missing and Murdered African American Women and Girls Task Force showed, African American women and girls in Minnesota are almost three times as likely to be murdered as their white peers. While comprising only 7 percent of the state population, 40 percent of domestic violence victims in Minnesota were Black women. Our own KIDS COUNT reports substantiate the findings of this Task Force, showing the opportunity gaps across age for our state's Black children and families. Disproportionate violence against Black women and girls harms everyone in our state, but most importantly our Black families and their communities, contributing to opportunity gaps.

Following the recommendations of the MMAAWG Task Force, a permanent home and funding to act on its critically important findings is essential to ensuring every Minnesotan including our Black girls and Women can not only survive but thrive and contribute their many gifts to our state.

Please join us in whole heartedly support HF 55/SF 19.



Debra Fitzpatrick
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