



January 11, 2023

To: Representative Ruth Richardson and Minnesota Legislators

For nearly 18 years the Emmett Till Legacy Foundation (ETLF) has been committed to creating a legacy of hope by honoring and preserving the legacy of Emmett Louis Till and his mother, Mamie Till Mobley, while offering opportunities, programs and scholarships that expose, educate, equip, inspire and empower youth, women and their families for a better future. Our mission is to bring truth, justice, accountability, and healing to ensure Emmett Till's death and the sacrifice of his mother are not in vain. ETLF will continue the fight for peace, civil/human rights, social/ economic justice, criminal justice reform, and the fight against hate that impacts us all.

With that, it brings us to recognize that in Minnesota we are all are fortunate that law makers have looked closely and considered the root causes of historical trauma, systemic racism, sexism, sexual objectification of Black women and girls, and the vulnerabilities that poverty, homelessness, child welfare disparities, domestic violence, sex trafficking and fear of law enforcement create.

And specifically in Minnesota, Black women are 3 times more likely to die of homicide Where sadly, Black women are only 7% of the population of Minnesota but make up 40% of domestic violence victims in the state.

It is startling that there are more than 60,000 Black women and girls missing in the United States.

We join others in recognizing the urgent need for dedicated resources to address the disparities and work towards prevention.

The Emmett Till Legacy Foundation members and supporters urge members to support the establishment of a Missing and Murdered Black Women and Girls Office. We further support the passage of HF55 as an important step towards addressing this crisis.

Thank you for giving this your immediate support and attention.  
Sincerely,

*Deborah Watts*

Deborah Watts  
Co-Founder and Executive Director  
Emmett Till Legacy Foundation

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