



# African American Leadership Forum

SUPPORT FOR HF 55 – OFFICE OF MISSING & MURDERED BLACK WOMEN & GIRLS

March 16, 2023

Chair Ron Latz  
Judiciary and Public Safety Committee  
1200 Minnesota Senate Building  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Chair Moller and Committee Members:

The African American Leadership Forum (AALF) is a movement of more than 5,000 African American leaders, institutions, allies, and systems that come together to collaborate and champion solutions that improve the lives and experience of African Americans in Minnesota. For 15 years, AALF Twin Cities has harnessed the collective power of Black communities to solve complex social problems. Our goal is to build a just and healthy society that works equally well for everyone.

The African American Leadership Forum expresses its strong support for HF 55, which will establish the Office for Missing and Murdered Black Women and Girls, the first in the nation. AALF salutes the work of the Task Force which sufficiently argued the case for the State of Minnesota to allocate permanent staffing and resources to address the disproportionate violence against Black women and girls in Minnesota. With over 60,000 Black women and girls currently missing in the country, and Black women being three times more likely than white women to be murdered in Minnesota, the urgency to disrupt this dangerous cycle is evident.

Thank you for your consideration of this bill and we ask for your support of HF 55.

Sincerely,

Amber Jones  
Managing Director, Policy Impact  
African American Leadership Forum