

1 **2021 RES-353**

2 **SUPPORT FOR 2021 WISCONSIN ASSEMBLY BILL 886 CREATING A TASK FORCE ON**
3 **MISSING AND MURDERED AFRICAN AMERICAN WOMEN AND GIRLS**

4 African American women make essential contributions to the productivity, wealth, health, and
5 success of Wisconsin and the nation. African American women support their families and serve
6 as leaders in their communities and society at large. African American women have played an
7 integral role in the fights to desegregate public schools in the 1950s and 1960s, the passage of
8 the Voting Rights Act of 1965, and multiple movements to ensure equal treatment for all. Today,
9 African American women are one of the most active groups of voters in the country, and African
10 American women and girls are creating greater opportunities for their communities through their
11 leadership of and participation in social movements locally and nationally.

12
13 And yet, an epidemic of violence continues in Wisconsin and the U.S. against African American
14 women and girls. In 2020, the National Crime Information Center showed that of the 268,884
15 reported missing women and girls, 34% of them were African American.ⁱ Non-Hispanic African
16 American and Indigenous women experience the highest rates of homicide in the country.

17 A least four African American women and girls were murdered each day in the United States in
18 2020. The FBI recorded at least 405 additional murders of African American women and girls in
19 2020 versus 2019 as homicide surged across the country, and experts caution that even that
20 number probably represents an undercount.ⁱⁱ

21 Among students, 11% of African American girls in a national high school sample reported
22 having been raped.ⁱⁱⁱ African American women experience intimate partner violence at higher
23 rates than women overall. More than 40 percent of African American women experience
24 physical violence by an intimate partner during their lifetimes (41.2 percent), compared with 31.5
25 percent of all women.^{iv} Furthermore, violence against African American women and girls often
26 goes ignored or underreported and when abuse or violence occurs, they are less likely to be
27 believed and supported, and at times have been incarcerated themselves in connection to their
28 victimization.

29 2021 AB 886, recently introduced in the Wisconsin Legislature, seeks to create a task force on
30 missing and murdered African American women and girls. The task force would be established
31 by the Wisconsin Attorney General and would consist of at least 17 members who are
32 knowledgeable in crime victims' rights or violence protection, including two members of the
33 Senate, two members of the Assembly, law enforcement leaders, victims' advocates, and at
34 least one African American woman who has survived gender violence. The objective of the task
35 force is to focus knowledge and resources to find solutions to the violence against African
36 American women and girls to make Wisconsin a safe place for African American women and
37 their families.

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39 The task force would examine various factors and systemic elements that contribute to violence
40 against African American women and girls, explore methods for collecting and tracking data,
41 and recommend policies and measures directed at reducing violence. The effort would
42 culminate in a report to the Wisconsin legislature on actions that can be taken to eliminate
43 violence against African American women and girls.

44 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Dane County recognizes the disparities and
45 inequity both in the incidence of violence directed toward African American women and girls and
46 in the relative lack of data, response, and resources directed toward ending that violence.

47 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Dane County recognizes that addressing violence against
48 African American women and girls, including those who are missing and murdered, is a
49 critical step toward achieving racial equity in our county, state, and nation.

50 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Dane County hereby supports State of Wisconsin 2021
51 Assembly Bill 886 and the creation of a task force on missing and murdered African American
52 women and girls.

53 BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that Dane County will send a copy of this resolution to each
54 member of the Dane County Wisconsin Legislative delegation.

ⁱ 2020 NCIC Missing Person and Unidentified Person Statistics, <https://www.fbi.gov/file-repository/2020-ncic-missing-person-and-unidentified-person-statistics.pdf/view>.

ⁱⁱ Federal Bureau of Investigation Crime Data Explorer, <https://crime-data-explorer.fr.cloud.gov/pages/home>

ⁱⁱⁱ Race, Ethnicity, Substance Use, and Unwanted Sexual Intercourse among Adolescent Females in the United States, Thompson, McGee, & Mays, 2012.

^{iv} The Status of Black Women in the United States Executive Summary, Asha DuMonthier, Chandra Childers, Ph.D., and Jessica Milli, Ph.D., Institute for Women's Policy Research, www.iwpr.org, www.statusofwomendata.org