

Est. and Fund the Missing & Murdered Indigenous Women (MMIW) Office - 4/20

Info on bills:

HF2124 - author Rep. Keeler. This bill has been included in the House Public Safety Omnibus bill (HF1078)

SF1989 - author Sen. Kunesh, co-author Sen. Biggam. This bill has not been heard in the Senate. It has been offered twice as an amendment to the Senate Public Safety omnibus (SF970), but has been turned down both times by Sen. Limmer.



What the bill does:

Appropriates \$500,000 each year to establish and maintain an office dedicated to reviewing, preventing, and ending the targeting, disappearance, and death of Indigenous women and girls.

Who to call/contact:

1. Senate Judiciary and Public Safety Finance and Policy Committee

https://www.senate.mn/committees/committee_bio.html?cmte_id=3099

- a. **Committee Chair - Warren Limmer** tel: 651-296-2159
email: <https://www.senate.mn/members/email-form/1032>
- b. **Vice Chair (Mark Johnson)** tel: 651-296-5782
email: <https://www.senate.mn/members/email-form/1217>

Sample Script: My name is I live in..... and am calling you as Chair/Vice Chair on the Senate Judiciary and Public Safety Finance and Policy Committee. I am calling regarding SF1989, the bill to establish a Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women's office.

In 2019 there was unanimous bipartisan support to create the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women's Task force to investigate ways to stop the disproportionate and horrific violence suffered by MMIW in Minnesota. (Thank you, Senator Limmer for actively supporting this bill back then).

In late 2020, after countless hours gathering data from stakeholders and experts on this issue, the MMIW Task Force issued a 163 page report. The very first action the Task Force recommended was to create an MMIW Office to ensure that the MN Legislature and state agencies are held accountable for implementing the Report's mandates.

I do not understand why the Senate Judiciary Committee has chosen not to support this recommendation, particularly given its prior support of the bill to establish the MMIW Taskforce. I urge you to include this bill in the Public Safety Omnibus, so that the work to end the epidemic of violence against Indigenous women and girls in MN can begin.

All women deserve to be safe. It's time for the Minnesota Legislature to put its money where its mouth is and create and fund the MMIW Office.

2. Your State Senator <https://www.gis.leg.mn/iMaps/districts/>

Sample Script: My name is..... I live atand I am one of your constituents. I am calling you regarding SF1989, the bill to establish a MMIW office. In 2019 there was unanimous bipartisan support to create the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women's Task force to investigate ways to stop the disproportionate and horrific violence suffered by MMIW in Minnesota. Late last year, after countless hours gathering data from stakeholders and experts on this issue, the MMIW Task Force issued a 163 page report. The very first action the Task Force recommended was to create an MMIW Office to ensure that the MN Legislature and state agencies are held accountable for implementing the Report's mandates.

This bill is included in the House Public Safety Omnibus. I am contacting you to urge you to do all you can to make sure this bill is in the final version of the Public Safety omnibus, so that the next step in the important work to end the epidemic of violence against Indigenous women and girls in MN can begin. It's time for the Minnesota Legislature to put its money where its mouth is and create and fund the MMIW Office. All women deserve to be safe.

Join Women's March MN every other Tuesday for Time to Act - an online event where we gather to take action together on specific issues. Check the calendar for dates:

<https://www.womensmarchmn.com/calendar-of-events>