

A Resolution to Stand in Solidarity with our Native American, Alaskan Native and First Nations' Against MMIWG (Missing, Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls)

Be it resolved, that we, the State Board of Directors of the Washington Education Association, hereby reaffirm our organization's support and solidarity with the Indigenous peoples from all over the geographic area now referred to as North, Central and South America, as well as its territories, who currently reside within, and call the state of Washington their home.

Whereas, Native American, Alaskan Native and First Nations women and girls are murdered, or go missing at a higher rate than any other ethnic group within the United States; and

Whereas, the disappearances and murders of Native American, Alaskan Native and First Nations women and girls directly correlates to domestic violence, sexual assault, and/or human trafficking; and

Whereas, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that homicide is the third leading cause of death for Indigenous women and girls between the ages of ten and twenty-four, and the fifth leading cause of death for Indigenous women between the ages of twenty-five and thirty-four; and

Whereas, the murder rate among Native American, Alaskan Native and First Nations women and girls is ten times the national average; and

Whereas, a 2014 U.S. Department of Justice-funded study singled out the cities of Seattle and Tacoma as showing the highest growth in their underground sex trafficking industries from \$50 million in 2003 to \$112 million in 2007; and

Whereas, the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs' National Institute of Justice reports that more than four in five Native American, Alaskan Native and First Nations' women experience violence during their lifetime; and

Whereas, Native American, Alaskan Native and First Nations' women are the first educators in the lives of our Indigenous children, and the very foundations of our Native nations, communities and families.

Therefore, it is resolved that we, the State Board of Directors of the Washington Education Association will stand in solidarity with our Native American, Alaskan Native and First Nations' tribal governments, communities, and families to join the effort to combat this epidemic that is raging in our state. We pledge our support to any and all efforts to lobby on behalf of the Indigenous women and girls of our state, and to remain steadfast in our solidarity and support from now, until the last of our Stolen Sisters are brought home.