

A Resolution Declaring There is No Democracy Without Black Women

Committee: Women's Issues Resolution: WMN-21-01

1. **WHEREAS** The National Organization of Black Elected Legislative Women and the
2. State Innovation Exchange co created a report called NO Democracy Without Black
3. Women
4. **WHEREAS** Today, just 4.82% of state legislators are Black women, 356 out of 7,383
5. Legislators
6. **WHEREAS** It is crucial for Black women to be represented in state legislatures, which
7. consider over 100,000 bills nationwide each year.
8. **WHEREAS** The people who most intimately know the true impact of structural racism
9. and sexism—Black women—know best how to dismantle those systems and move to a
10. just and equitable democracy and society.
11. **WHEREAS** There remain 8 states without a single Black woman in their legislature,
12. despite the Black population in each state ranging from 2-6%: Vermont, South Dakota,
13. Hawaii, Arizona, Idaho, Nebraska, Montana, and North Dakota.
14. **WHEREAS** States with large Black populations are not immune from
15. under-representation either. In fact, Mississippi, the state with the highest Black
16. population in the country, has a staggering disparity in representation—Black women
17. make up approximately 19.36% of the population but just 7.47% of the legislature.
18. **WHEREAS** President Karen Camper shared that “When Black women and girls see
19. Black women rising up and being put in these positions of power, it gives them hope. We
20. have the power to bring change to our communities and I don’t take that for granted.”
21. **WHEREAS** Congresswoman Joyce Beatty shared that ““All politics are local, so it is
22. imperative more Black women run for public office. Black women helped fuel change up
23. and down the ballot during the 2020 Election; just imagine the transformational power
24. ‘Black Girl Magic’ can have in city councils and state legislatures.”
25. **WHEREAS** Congresswoman Robin Kelly shared that “Having worked at every level of
26. government—community, county, state, and federal—I can unequivocally say that the
27. work of local and state governments present the greatest opportunity to have a direct
28. impact on the lives of our constituents. And now, with the relentless assault on voting \
29. rights in state legislatures across America, more Black women are needed in state elective
30. offices to preserve our most precious Constitutional right.”
31. **WHEREAS** Representative Attica Scott shared “As one of two Black women in our
32. legislature, I face threats from people filled with racial hatred, I face erasure from my
33. colleagues, and I face institutional racism. Despite all of this, I serve because my
34. community deserves a racial justice champion.”
35. **WHEREAS** Representative Sandra Scotts shared “I stand when I need to stand, I speak
36. up when I need to speak, and I protest when I need to protest. But most of all, I create
37. meaningful legislation that has a positive impact on my community. Being an outspoken
38. Black female legislator in Georgia is not an easy job but I love it.**\**
39. **WHEREAS** MAryland Speaker Adrienne Jones shared that “Black women continue to
40. broaden the reach and impact of our state, local and federal policies that improve our
41. communities. As Maryland’s first Black and first woman to serve as Speaker, I am also
42. the only one to introduce a statewide plan for racial & economic justice. Diverse
43. leadership – at every level of government – is the vehicle that drives us closer towards \
44. Progress.”
45. **WHEREAS** Krystal Leaphart shared that “Black Women have earned a seat at the table,
46. the right to lead the table and set the menu. Only then will Black women begin to see
47. radical returns on our social, financial and political investments!”
48. **WHEREAS** Lauren Bealore shared that “Lasting progressive change must begin with
49. removing the barriers of entry for Black Women.”
50. **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the National Organization of Black Elected
51. Legislative Women will continue to recruit and train black women to get involved in
52. publix service.
53. **BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that the National Organization of Black Elected
54. Legislative Women will push to solve the issues of misogyny in the political process.

Introduced by The Honorable Tonya Anderson

Georgia General Assembly