



**The National Organization of Black Elected Legislative Women supports the
We Belong Here Campaign**

Committee: Women's Issues

Resolution: WMN-20-01

1. **Whereas** Representative Emilia Sykes started the We Belong Here Campaign After
being
2. stopped getting into her own legislative building that she had been working at for several
3. years. One of the employees stated that “she did not look like a legislator.” She began
4. sharing her story as an example of the unique challenges that black women face, which
5. prompted others to share their stories.
6. **Whereas** through developing the We Belong Here Campaign, Representative Sykes and
7. others found that there is comfort in their shared experiences. They also found what many
8. others have found – when Black Women , especially in public office, share these stories
9. we are often demonized or written off as complainers. Instead of having our concerns of
10. injustice taken seriously we are, once again, discounted and overlooked.
11. **Whereas** the We Belong Here Campaign aims to create a vibrant social movement that
12. serves as a safe space for Black women; an accessible environment where Black women
13. can share their stories with people who have been there and understand the challenges
14. they face; an environment where we focus on self-care, we acknowledge the stress that
15. comes with our day-to-day challenges and we address it.
16. **Whereas** the We Belong Here Campaign also aims to Leverage the political power
17. behind Black Womens’ united strength. Many candidates and issues rely on the Black
18. female vote. We Belong Here wants Black women to fully realize their potential if they
19. would like to run for office or get more involved – there should be an easy way for them
20. to do so without having to attend just the right school, or be from the right neighborhood,
21. or know the right people.
22. **Now, therefore, be in resolved** that The National Organization of Black Elected

23. Legislative Women is in solidarity with the We Belong Here Movement
24. **Be it finally resolved** NOBEL Women will continue to address the barriers black women
25. face when running for office with our Leadership Institute, partnerships and resources.

**Introduced by the Honorable Raumesh Akbari
Tennessee General Assembly**