



## **A Resolution addressing Domestic Violence**

**Committee: Women's Issues**

**Resolution: WMN-20-04**

1. **WHEREAS**, African American women experience Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) at a
2. rate of 35% higher than white women and scarcely 2.5% higher than women of other
3. races.
4. **WHEREAS**, Domestic violence is extremely under-reported due to social conditions,
5. distrust in law enforcements as well as religious beliefs within the African American
6. community.
7. **WHEREAS**, Both the long and short time effects of Domestic Violence may be greater
8. for African American women due to the exposure of external factors and social
9. conditions that increase chances of worse conditions.
10. **WHEREAS**, Domestic Violence has been labeled as the number one health issue facing
11. African American Women in the United States by the Black Women's Health Project.
12. **WHEREAS**, Association between dysthymia, alcohol dependence, drug abuse and
13. poverty has been linked to African American women who have been victims of
14. domestic violence abuse.
15. **WHEREAS**, African American women are 2.5% more likely to be murdered in a
16. domestic violence dispute than white women.
17. **WHEREAS**, The Lautenberg Amendment amended the Gun Control Act of 1968 which
18. previously banned those convicted of felony domestic violence offenses from legally
19. owning a gun.

20. **WHEREAS**, There is a “boyfriend loophole” that lies within The Lautenberg  
21. Amendment that allows domestic violence felony offenders to purchase guns only if they  
22. were not married to their victim.

23. **WHEREAS**, The Violence Against Women Act has played a crucial role in protecting  
24. women and families in the United States since 1994.

25. **WHEREAS**, The Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2019 would have  
26. addressed and closed the loophole yet there has been no action taken since it was passed  
27. in the House in April of 2019.

28. **WHEREAS**, Sen. Mitch McConnell allowed The Violence Against Women  
29. Reauthorization Act of 2019 expire over a year ago.

30. **WHEREAS**, The Victims of Crime Act Fund (VOCA) has provided funding to federal  
31. and state programs that assist victims of crime since 1984. VOCA uses non-taxpayer  
32. money from the Crime Victims Fund (CVF).

33. **WHEREAS**, The VOCA funds that have been released annually have recently begun to  
34. decline due to a prosecutorial strategy that has changed over the last decade and is not  
35. specifically a partisan issue.

36. **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that NOBEL Women support proper policing and  
37. procedure to build up reliability in the law between domestic violence victims and  
38. government.

39. **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that NOBEL Women urges states to enforce  
40. bystander prevention within corporate offices and schools.

41. **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that NOBEL Women encourages easier access to  
42. healthcare through the Affordable Care Act due to Domestic Violence afflicting African

43. American Women as a public health issue.

44. **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that NOBEL Women supports the Reauthorization

45. of The Violence Against Women Act of 2019.

46. **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that NOBEL Women urges the language of the

47. HEROES Act to be enacted to increase deposits to the Crime Victims Fund.

**Introduced by The Honorable Toni Rose**

**Texas Legislature**