2019 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 39


Relating to: proclaiming May 5th as a Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Native Women and Girls.

Whereas, according to the Coalition to Stop Violence Against Native Women, four out of five Native women are affected by violence today, and according to a 2016 report from the National Institute of Justice, one-half of those women experience sexual violence; and

Whereas, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, homicide is the third leading cause of death among American Native and Alaska Native women between 10 and 24 years of age and the fifth leading cause of death for American Native and Alaska Native women between 25 and 34 years of age; and

Whereas, in 2016, the National Crime Information Center reported nearly 6,000 cases of missing Native American women and girls, but the U.S. Department of Justice was tracking only about 100 cases; and

Whereas, still little data exists on the number of missing and murdered American Native and Alaska Native women and girls in the United States, but there
have been instances of violence towards Native women and girls from the 11
Wisconsin Native American Tribes; and

Whereas, some of the Wisconsin Native women whose identities are known
include: Bad River Ojibwe members Angeline Whitebird-Sweet, murdered 1989,
Charlene Couture, missing since 2009, and Sheila St. Clair, missing since 2015, and
Lac du Flambeau Ojibwe members Susan Poupart, murdered 1990, LaVonne Frank,
murdered 1997, Donna (LaBarge) Peterson, murdered July 2004, and Emily Anne
Marie Wayman, 22 years old, murdered 2010; and

Whereas, we commemorate the lives of missing and murdered American Native
and Alaska Native women and girls whose cases are documented and undocumented
in public records and the media; and demonstrate solidarity with the families of the
victims in light of these tragedies and with the American Native and Alaska Native
communities who continuously experience erasure in our state and nation; now,
therefore, be it

Resolved by the senate, the assembly concurring, That the members of the
Wisconsin State Legislature hereby commemorate the lives of missing and murdered
American Native and Alaska Native women and girls and proclaim May 5th as a day
of awareness on which we mourn and call attention to the many missing and
murdered Native women and girls, as well as those who have experienced violence
and assault, and resolve to act to prevent further victimization.

(END)