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March 17, 2026

**TO:** The Honorable Melissa Wells  
Chair, Government, Labor, and Elections Committee

**FROM:** Tiffany Clark  
Director, Legislative Affairs, Office of the Attorney General

**RE:** House Bill 588 - Missing and Murdered American Indian and Alaskan  
Native Women and Girls - Day of Awareness and Reporting Requirement  
(Support in Concept)

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The Office of the Attorney General (OAG) supports in concept House Bill 588 - Missing and Murdered American Indian and Alaskan Native Women and Girls - Day of Awareness and Reporting Requirement. HB 588 requires the Governor to annually proclaim May 5 as Missing and Murdered American Indian and Alaskan Native Women and Girls Awareness Day and directs the Department of State Police to report to the General Assembly with recommendations on improving data collection, federal-state coordination, and public awareness efforts related to violence against American Indian and Alaskan Native (AI/AN) individuals.

This legislation directly supports our efforts to advance equity and justice for underserved and vulnerable communities across Maryland. AI/AN women and girls experience violence at rates up to ten times the national average, with more than four in five having experienced violence and more than one in two having experienced sexual violence. Yet these women and girls are less likely than members of other racial groups to receive needed services when they become victims. These disparities are compounded by well-documented failures in data collection, including racial misidentification and undercounting, that render much of this violence invisible in official statistics.

Attorney General Brown has long been committed to combating violence against women and ensuring that all Marylanders, regardless of race, background, or community, have access to

justice and support. HB 588 reflects those values and advances the kind of data-driven, equity-focused policymaking that the OAG strongly endorses.

We appreciate the General Assembly's work on this important policy and welcome the opportunity to share our perspective.

Cc: Members of the Committee