

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 39

Senators Geiss, Bullock, Wojno, Brinks, McCann, Chang, Polehanki, Alexander, Santana and Hollier offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to commemorate April 11-17, 2021, as Black
2 Maternal Health Week.

3 Whereas, According to the Center for Disease Control (CDC),
4 Black mothers in the United States die at three to four times the
5 rate of white mothers; and

6 Whereas, The CDC data from 2011-2016 for pregnancy-related
7 deaths shows that there were 13 deaths per 100,000 live births for
8 white women, 42.4 deaths per 100,000 live births for Black women,
9 and 17.4 deaths per 100,000 live births for women of all races in
10 the United States; and

11 Whereas, Black maternal death is one of the widest of all

1 racial disparities in women's health; and

2 Whereas, Black women are 26 percent more likely to die from
3 heart disease than white women, 75 percent more likely to die from
4 cervical cancer, and three to four times more likely to die from
5 pregnancy- or childbirth-related causes; and

6 Whereas, According to the National Institutes of Health, when
7 compared with white women with the conditions for preeclampsia,
8 eclampsia, abruptio placentae, placenta previa, and postpartum
9 hemorrhage, which are common causes of maternal death and injury,
10 Black women are two to three times more likely to die than white
11 women who had the same condition; and

12 Whereas, According to the Michigan Maternal Mortality
13 Surveillance Project, between 2013 to 2017, Black women in Michigan
14 experienced a pregnancy-related mortality rate of 21.3 deaths per
15 100,000 live births compared to 8.9 deaths per 100,000 live births
16 for white women in Michigan; and

17 Whereas, As of January 2020, the United States has the highest
18 maternal death rate in the developed world and our state ranks 30th
19 in the nation for maternal death; and

20 Whereas, These alarming statistics for Black maternal health
21 cut across socio-economic status, maternal age, and education
22 levels; and

23 Whereas, We recognize the necessity for increased attention to
24 the state of Black maternal health as well as the need to study and
25 understand the root causes of poor maternal health outcomes; and

26 Whereas, We support community-driven programs, care solutions,
27 the improvement of prenatal care and overall maternal healthcare,
28 the improvement of breastfeeding rates and nutrition, and the
29 amplification of the voices of Black mothers, women, families, and

1 stakeholders including Black women from across the diaspora and
2 Afro-Latinx groups; and

3 Whereas, We also recognize the necessity to end maternal
4 mortality globally in order to strengthen the need for maternal
5 health and rights; now, therefore, be it

6 Resolved by the Senate, That the members of this legislative
7 body commemorate April 11-17, 2021, as Black Maternal Health Week.