

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 28

Senators Geiss, Brinks, Camilleri, Cavanagh, Chang, Cherry, Irwin, Klinefelt, McMorrow, Moss, Polehanki, Santana, Shink, Singh and Wojno offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to commemorate April 11-17, 2023, as Black
2 Maternal Health Week.

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

6 Whereas, The CDC data from 2021 for pregnancy-related deaths
7 shows that maternal mortality rates are increasing rapidly, 26.6
8 deaths per 100,000 live births for white women, 69.9 deaths per
9 100,000 live births for Black women, and 32.1 deaths per 100,000
10 live births for women of all races in the United States; and

1 Whereas, Black maternal death is one of the widest but not the
2 only racial disparities in women's health; and

3 Whereas, Black women are 22 percent more likely to die from
4 heart disease than white women, 71 percent more likely to die from
5 cervical cancer, and three to four times more likely to die from
6 pregnancy-related or childbirth-related causes; and

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

13 Whereas, According to the Michigan Maternal Mortality
14 Surveillance Project, between 2015 to 2019, Black women in Michigan
15 experienced a pregnancy-related mortality rate of 29.8 deaths per
16 100,000 live births compared to 10.7 deaths per 100,000 live births
17 for white women in Michigan; and

18 Whereas, According to the Commonwealth Fund, the United States
19 has the highest maternal death rate in high-income countries in
20 which two-thirds of all recorded deaths are deemed to be
21 preventable, and our state currently ranks 25th in the nation for
22 maternal deaths; and

23 Whereas, These alarming statistics for Black maternal health
24 cut across socio-economic status, maternal age, and education
25 levels; and

26 Whereas, We recognize the necessity for increased attention to
27 the state for Black maternal healthcare as well as the need to
28 study and understand the root causes of the discrepancies in
29 maternal health outcomes; and

1 Whereas, We support community-driven programs, care solutions,
2 the improvement of prenatal care and overall maternal healthcare,
3 the improvement of breastfeeding rates and nutrition, and the
4 amplification of the voices of Black mothers, women, families, and
5 stakeholders, including Black women from across the diaspora and
6 Afro-Latinx groups; and

7 Whereas, We also recognize the necessity to end maternal
8 mortality statewide, nationally, and globally in order to
9 strengthen the need for maternal health and maternal rights; now,
10 therefore, be it

11 Resolved by the Senate, That the members of this legislative
12 body commemorate April 11-17, 2023, as Black Maternal Health Week.