

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 24

Senator Geiss offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to commemorate April 11-17, 2025, as Black
2 Maternal Health Week.

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

6 Whereas, The CDC data from 2023 for pregnancy-related deaths
7 shows that maternal mortality rates are disproportionately high:
8 14.5 deaths per 100,000 live births for white women, 50.3 deaths
9 per 100,000 live births for Black women, and 18.6 deaths per
10 100,000 live births for women of all races in the U.S.; and

11 Whereas, Among high-income nations, the U.S. has some of the
12 worst rates of maternal and infant health outcomes, despite
13 spending an estimated \$111 billion per year on maternal, prenatal,
14 and newborn care; and

1 Whereas, At 14.8 percent, Black women have the highest
2 percentage of U.S. live births that were preterm; and

3 Whereas, Disparities in maternal and infant mortality are
4 rooted in structural racism. The Institute of Medicine reported
5 substantial disparities in the quality of care for minority
6 communities even when accounting for healthcare insurance coverage
7 and income; and

8 Whereas, Black women are more likely to quit, be fired, or
9 return to work before they are healthy after giving birth due to
10 inadequate family and medical leave policies; and

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

13 Whereas, Black women are 22 percent more likely to die from
14 heart disease than white women, 71 percent more likely to die from
15 cervical cancer, and three to four times more likely to die from
16 pregnancy-related or childbirth-related causes; and

17 Whereas, According to the National Institutes of Health, when
18 compared with white women with the conditions of preeclampsia,
19 eclampsia, abruptio placentae, placenta previa, and postpartum
20 hemorrhage, which are common causes of maternal death and injury,
21 Black women are three to four times more likely to die than white
22 women who had the same condition; and

23 Whereas, Black women are more likely to experience
24 reproductive health disorders such as fibroids, and are three times
25 more likely to have endometriosis; and

26 Whereas, According to the Michigan Maternal Mortality
27 Surveillance Project, between 2016 to 2020, Black women in Michigan
28 experienced a pregnancy-related mortality rate of 36.5 deaths per
29 100,000 live births compared to 16.3 deaths per 100,000 live births

1 for white women in Michigan; and

2 Whereas, According to the Commonwealth Fund, the U.S. has the
3 highest maternal death rate in high income countries in which two-
4 thirds of all recorded deaths are deemed to be preventable. Our
5 state currently ranks 23rd in the nation for maternal deaths; and

6 Whereas, These alarming statistics for Black maternal health
7 cut across socio-economic status, maternal age, and education
8 levels; and

9 Whereas, We recognize the necessity for increased attention to
10 the state for Black maternal healthcare as well as the need to
11 study and understand the root causes of the discrepancies in
12 maternal health outcomes; and

13 Whereas, We support community-driven programs, care solutions,
14 the improvement of prenatal care and overall maternal healthcare,
15 the improvement of breastfeeding rates and nutrition, and the
16 amplification of the voices of Black mothers, women, families, and
17 stakeholders, including Black women from across the diaspora and
18 Afro-Latinx groups; and

19 Whereas, We also recognize the necessity to end maternal
20 mortality statewide, nationally, and globally in order to
21 strengthen the need for maternal health and maternal rights; now,
22 therefore, be it

23 Resolved by the Senate, That the members of this legislative
24 body commemorate April 11-17, 2025, as Black Maternal Health Week.