

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 123

Rep. Brenda Carter offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to urge the Congress of the United States to
2 establish and fund programs that support positive health practices
3 for minority mothers.

4 Whereas, As the country with the highest maternal death rate
5 in the developed world, the U.S. lags behind many other countries.
6 The U.S. also struggles with persistent racial disparities. Black
7 mothers in the U.S. die at three to four times the rate of white
8 mothers according to the Centers for Disease Control and
9 Prevention. From 2011 to 2013, pregnancy-related deaths among black
10 women were dramatically higher than women of other races, with 43.5
11 deaths per 100,000 live births among black women compared to 12.7
12 and 14.4 deaths per 100,000 live births among white women and women
13 of other races, respectively; and



1 Whereas, Michigan ranks 27th in the nation for its maternal
2 mortality rate, and Michigan's pregnancy-related mortality rates
3 are particularly concerning for black women. Between 1999 and 2010,
4 black women in Michigan experienced a pregnancy-related mortality
5 rate of 50.8 deaths per 100,000 live births compared to 16.6 deaths
6 per 100,000 live births for white women according to the Michigan
7 Maternal Mortality Surveillance Project; and

8 Whereas, The high death rate of minority mothers is one of the
9 widest of all racial disparities in women's health. Black women are
10 22 percent more likely to die from heart disease than white women
11 and 71 percent more likely to die from cervical cancer, but they
12 are 243 percent more likely to die from pregnancy- or childbirth-
13 related causes. Black women are two to three times more likely than
14 white women to die from pregnancy-related conditions, such as
15 preeclampsia, eclampsia, abruptio placentae, placenta previa, and
16 postpartum hemorrhage. These alarming statistics for black maternal
17 health cut across socio-economic status, maternal age, and
18 education levels; and

19 Whereas, Despite the nationwide need for improvements in
20 maternal health, more than 100 diseases and conditions receive more
21 funding from the National Institutes of Health than maternal
22 health; and

23 Whereas, It is important to recognize the necessity of ending
24 maternal mortality nationally and globally and intensifying
25 initiatives to improve maternal health and rights. It is vital to
26 bring attention to the state of minority and black maternal health,
27 study and understand the root causes of poor maternal health
28 outcomes, and support community-driven programs and care solutions.
29 We acknowledge the crucial importance of improving prenatal care,



1 overall maternal health care, breastfeeding rates, and nutrition.
2 To properly address maternal health disparities, it is critical to
3 amplify the voices of black mothers, women, families, and
4 stakeholders, as well as people from all racial and ethnic
5 minorities who are burdened by unjust health disparities; now,
6 therefore, be it

7 Resolved by the House of Representatives, That we urge the
8 Congress of the United States to establish and fund programs that
9 support positive health practices for minority mothers; and be it
10 further

11 Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the
12 President of the United States, the President of the United States
13 Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives,
14 the Secretary of Health and Human Services, and members of the
15 Michigan congressional delegation.

