

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 219

Reps. Brenda Carter, Aiyash, Brabec, Breen, Byrnes, Glanville, Haadsma, Hope, Hoskins, Liberati, Paiz, Rheingans, Rogers and Weiss offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to declare April 11-17, 2024, as Black Maternal
2 Health Week in the state of Michigan.

3 Whereas, According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) in
4 2023, Black mothers in the United States die from pregnancy-related
5 causes at three times the 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, The United States has some of the worst rates of
2 maternal and infant health outcomes among high-income nations,
3 despite spending an estimated \$111 billion per year on maternal,
4 prenatal, and newborn care; and

5 Whereas, Black women have the highest percentage (14.8%) of US
6 live births that are pre-term; and

7 Whereas, Disparities in maternal and infant mortality are
8 rooted in structural racism; and the Institute of Medicine reported
9 substantial disparities in the quality of care for minority
10 communities even when accounting for healthcare insurance coverage
11 and income; and

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

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

17 Whereas, Black women are 22 percent more likely to die from
18 heart disease than white women, 71 percent more likely to die from
19 cervical cancer, and three to four times more likely to die from
20 pregnancy-related or childbirth-related causes; and

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

27 Whereas, Black women are more likely to experience
28 reproductive health disorders such as fibroids, and are three times
29 more likely to have endometriosis; and

1 Whereas, According to the Michigan Maternal Mortality
2 Surveillance Project, between 2015 to 2019, Black women in Michigan
3 experienced a pregnancy-related mortality rate of 29.8 deaths per
4 100,000 live births compared to 10.7 deaths per 100,000 live births
5 for white women in Michigan; and

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

11 Whereas, These alarming statistics for Black maternal health
12 cut across socio-economic status, maternal age, and education
13 levels; and

14 Whereas, We recognize the necessity for increased attention to
15 the state of Black maternal healthcare as well as the need to study
16 and understand the root causes of the discrepancies in maternal
17 health outcomes; and

18 Whereas, We support community-driven programs, care solutions,
19 the improvement of prenatal care and overall maternal healthcare,
20 the improvement of breastfeeding rates and nutrition, and the
21 amplification of the voices of Black mothers, women, families, and
22 stakeholders; including Black women from across the diaspora and
23 Afro-Latinx groups; and

24 Whereas, We also recognize the necessity to end maternal
25 mortality statewide, nationally, and globally in order to
26 strengthen the need for maternal health and maternal rights; now,
27 therefore, be it

28 Resolved by the House of Representatives, That he members of
29 this legislative body declare April 11-17, 2024, as Black Maternal

1 Health Week in the state of Michigan.

2