

# HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 219

Rep. Brenda Carter 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

11 Whereas, The United States has some of the worst rates of  
12 maternal and infant health outcomes among high-income nations,

1 despite spending an estimated \$111 billion per year on maternal,  
2 prenatal, and newborn care; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

28       Whereas, According to the Michigan Maternal Mortality  
29 Surveillance Project, between 2015 to 2019, Black women in Michigan

1 experienced a pregnancy-related mortality rate of 29.8 deaths per  
2 100,000 live births compared to 10.7 deaths per 100,000 live births  
3 for white women in Michigan; and

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

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

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

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

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

26 Resolved by the House of Representatives, That he members of  
27 this legislative body declare April 11-17, 2024, as Black Maternal  
28 Health Week in the state of Michigan.

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