

# SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 107

Senators Geiss, Wojno, Shink, Moss and McDonald Rivet offered the following resolution:

1           A resolution to commemorate April 11-17, 2024, 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 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 U.S.; and

11           Whereas, Among high-income nations, the U.S. has some of the

1 worst rates of maternal and infant health outcomes, despite  
2 spending an estimated \$111 billion per year on maternal, prenatal,  
3 and newborn care; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

29       Whereas, According to the Michigan Maternal Mortality

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

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

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

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

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

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

27 Resolved by the Senate, That the members of this legislative  
28 body commemorate April 11-17, 2024, as Black Maternal Health Week.