



SPONSOR: Rep. Minor-Brown & Rep. Bush & Rep. S. Moore & Sen. Lockman & Sen. S. McBride & Sen. Townsend Reps. Baumbach, Bolden, Dorsey Walker, Griffith, Harris, Heffernan, Hilovsky, K. Johnson, Jones Giltner, Morrison, Osienki, Ramone, Michael Smith, K. Williams, Wilson-Anton, Yearick; Sens. Gay, Hansen, Hocker, Hoffner, Huxtable, Mantzavinos, Pinkney, Poore, Wilson

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
152nd GENERAL ASSEMBLY

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 79

PROCLAIMING JANUARY 23, 2024 AS MATERNAL HEALTH AWARENESS DAY IN THE STATE OF DELAWARE.

1 WHEREAS, the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention established the Pregnancy Mortality  
2 Surveillance System, in 1986, to collect data about the prevalence and causes of pregnancy-related deaths in the United  
3 States; and

4 WHEREAS, pregnancy-related deaths are defined as the number of birthing persons who die during pregnancy or  
5 within one year after a childbirth; and

6 WHEREAS, such data has demonstrated that between 2012-2019, the United States continues to be the only  
7 industrialized country with a rising rate of severe maternal morbidity and mortality, with over 700 maternal deaths per year;  
8 and

9 WHEREAS, it is estimated that up to 80 % of all pregnancy-related deaths are preventable; and

10 WHEREAS, data from the Delaware Maternal Mortality Review Committee (MMRC) 2022 indicates that racial  
11 disparities continue to exist with poor maternal outcomes, as Black births comprise 28% of all births, but Black birthing  
12 persons account for 75% of all pregnancy-related deaths; and

13 WHEREAS, the MMRC data also demonstrates that a growing number of maternal deaths are linked to  
14 cardiovascular disease, substance use disorder and suicides, which may be preventable through adequate access to care; and

15 WHEREAS, the federal Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) has calculated that Delaware is  
16 currently only at 65 % adequacy across all health care workforce; and

17 WHEREAS, HRSA is also predicting by 2036, Delaware will only be at 55% adequacy across all health care  
18 workforce, indicating an increasing loss of workforce for provision of care and access; and

19 WHEREAS, according to a 2022 March of Dimes report, more than one third of all US counties are considered  
20 “maternity care deserts” which has resulted in patients travelling longer distances to receive or just go without, much  
21 needed care; and

22 WHEREAS, Governor Carney provided the first proclamation of Maternal Health Awareness Day in Delaware on  
23 January 23, 2018 to bring together community, healthcare and legislator stakeholders for a day of recognition and solution-  
24 building regarding the ongoing crisis in maternal health outcomes; and

25 WHEREAS, since then, the General Assembly has recognized annually, January 23<sup>rd</sup> as Maternal Health  
26 Awareness Day, in Delaware to highlight such pressing maternal health issues, as gaps in postpartum care, postpartum  
27 depression, postpartum hemorrhage and substance use disorder; and

28 WHEREAS, this collaborative effort across all stakeholders in maternal care has promoted the work of the  
29 Delaware Quality Perinatal Collaborative and such important initiatives, as the Alliance for Innovation on Maternal Health  
30 and the expansion of postpartum insurance coverage to maintain critical maternal access and to address the impact of the  
31 current severe maternal morbidity and mortality crisis in Delaware.

32 NOW, THEREFORE:

33 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the 152nd General Assembly of the State of Delaware, the  
34 Senate concurring therein, that the General Assembly hereby designates January 23, 2024 as ‘Maternal Health Awareness  
35 Day’ in the State of Delaware, in order to raise public and professional awareness about maternal health, safety and  
36 mortality issues, including racial disparities in women’s health and the lack of adequate quality maternal care due to the  
37 current healthcare workforce crisis; to promote education about promising maternal health initiatives; and to encourage the  
38 development of new initiatives which proactively address these and all aspects of maternal care and maternal health  
39 outcomes.

#### SYNOPSIS

This concurrent resolution hereby designates January 23, 2024 as ‘Maternal Health Awareness Day’ in the State of Delaware.