



SPONSOR: Sen. Pinkney & Rep. Minor-Brown
Sens. Gay, Hansen, Hoffner, Huxtable, Lockman,
Mantzavinos, S. McBride, Sokola, Townsend, Wilson;
Reps. Baumbach, Briggs King, Griffith, K. Johnson,
Lambert, Longhurst, Lynn, Morrison, Phillips, Wilson-
Anton

DELAWARE STATE SENATE
152nd GENERAL ASSEMBLY

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 30

RECOGNIZING THE WEEK OF APRIL 11 THROUGH APRIL 17, 2023 AS "BLACK MATERNAL HEALTH AWARENESS WEEK" IN DELAWARE.

1 WHEREAS, preventable maternal mortality is a human rights crisis in the United States; and

2 WHEREAS, the U.S. is one of only thirteen countries in the world in which pregnancy-related deaths are on the
3 rise; and

4 WHEREAS, Black women in the U.S. suffer from life-threatening pregnancy complications twice as often as
5 White women, and they die from pregnancy-related complications four times as often as White women; and

6 WHEREAS, racial disparities in pregnancy-related deaths across all income and education levels show that Black
7 women in the U.S. are at a higher risk for poor outcomes than White women; and

8 WHEREAS, Delaware's infant mortality rate is 6.5 deaths per 1,000 live births, higher than the national average of
9 5.8, and masks a significant racial disparity; and

10 WHEREAS, at 11.6 infant deaths per 1,000 live births, the Delaware Black infant mortality rate is three times
11 higher than the White infant mortality rate of 4.7 infant deaths per 1,000 live births; and

12 WHEREAS, the Hispanic infant mortality rate is twice as high as the White infant mortality rate; and

13 WHEREAS, the 5-year infant mortality rate in Wilmington decreased by 11% for Black babies, decreased by
14 11.3% for Hispanic babies, and decreased by 23% for White babies; however, the 5-year infant mortality rate in Kent
15 county increased by 77% for Blacks, increased by 16.4% for Hispanics, and decreased by 43% for Whites; and

16 WHEREAS, Delaware is committed to the health and wellbeing of women and families in our state; and

17 WHEREAS, the State of Delaware - through the efforts of the Delaware Healthy Mother and Infant Consortium,
18 the Delaware Perinatal Quality Collaborative, and many other stakeholders - works to promote various promising efforts
19 such as the OB Hemorrhage Initiative to reduce maternal and infant mortality, morbidity, and disparities; and improve
20 public and professional awareness of the issues related to improving maternal health outcomes, women's experiences at
21 childbirth, and critical postpartum care, especially for women of color; and

22 WHEREAS, Delaware recognizes that every woman deserves quality, affordable, culturally respectful maternal
23 health care and reaffirms a statewide commitment to reducing maternal mortality, morbidity, and racial health disparities
24 among Delaware women; and

25 WHEREAS, to tackle the problem of maternal mortality, Delaware is committed to developing a multi-faceted
26 approach to addressing persistent and dire health disparities, and the social determinants of health, the conditions under
27 which people live, work, and play; and

28 WHEREAS, to improve Delaware maternal and infant health outcomes, we must prioritize Black women's health
29 and lives and commit to taking meaningful action; and

30 WHEREAS, all Delaware women have the right to safe and respectful maternal health care that supports healthy
31 pregnancies and births; and

32 WHEREAS, in order to improve public and professional awareness of the issues related to Black maternal health
33 and mortality, and to promote the various promising efforts to reduce Black maternal mortality, morbidity, and disparities,
34 it is both reasonable and appropriate to recognize Black Maternal Health Awareness Week in the State of Delaware and to
35 annually invite community members and health care professionals, during this week, to participate in appropriate activities
36 relating to Black maternal health, safety, and mortality.

37 NOW, THEREFORE:

38 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the 152nd General Assembly of the State of Delaware, the House of
39 Representatives concurring therein, that we recognize April 11-17, 2023, as Black Maternal Health Awareness Week in
40 Delaware.

SYNOPSIS

This Resolution recognizes April 11-17 2023, as "Black Maternal Health Awareness Week" in Delaware.

Author: Senator Pinkney