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Paradee, Pettyjohn, Poore, Richardson, Sokola, Sturgeon,
Walsh, Wilson

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
152nd GENERAL ASSEMBLY

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 107

RECOGNIZING THE WEEK OF APRIL 11 THROUGH APRIL 17, 2024, 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 5.9 deaths per 1,000 live births, on par with the national average
9 of 5.8, and masks a significant racial disparity; and
10 WHEREAS, at 11 infant deaths per 1,000 live births, the Delaware Black infant mortality rate is three times higher
11 than the White infant mortality rate of 3.4 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, the State of Delaware ranks 26th in the nation for highest prevalence of infant mortality; and
17 WHEREAS, Delaware is committed to the health and wellbeing of women and families in our state; and
18 WHEREAS, the State of Delaware - through the efforts of the Delaware Healthy Mother and Infant Consortium,
19 the Delaware Perinatal Quality Collaborative, and many other stakeholders - works to promote various promising efforts
20 such as the OB Hemorrhage Initiative to reduce maternal and infant mortality, morbidity, and disparities; and improve

21 public and professional awareness of the issues related to improving maternal health outcomes, women's experiences at
22 childbirth, and critical postpartum care, especially for women of color; and

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

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

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

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

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

38 NOW, THEREFORE:

39 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the 152nd General Assembly of the State of Delaware, the
40 Senate concurring therein, that we recognize April 11-17, 2024, as Black Maternal Health Awareness Week in Delaware.

SYNOPSIS

This Resolution recognizes April 11 - 17, 2024, as "Black Maternal Health Awareness Week" in Delaware.