



SPONSOR: Rep. Minor-Brown & Sen. Lockman & Sen. Pinkney & Sen. Townsend  
Rep. Bolden; Sens. Bonini, Brown, Ennis, Gay, Hansen, Hocker, Lawson, Lopez, Mantzavinos, S. McBride, Paradee, Pettyjohn, Poore, Richardson, Sokola, Sturgeon, Walsh, Wilson

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
151st GENERAL ASSEMBLY

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 18

RECOGNIZING THE WEEK OF APRIL 11 THROUGH APRIL 17, 2021 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 1 of only 13 countries in the world in which pregnancy-related deaths are on the rise; and
- 3 WHEREAS, Black women in the U.S. suffer from life-threatening pregnancy complications twice as often as
- 4 White women, and they die from pregnancy-related complications four times as often as White women; and
- 5 WHEREAS, racial disparities in pregnancy-related deaths across all income and education levels show that Black
- 6 women in the U.S. are at a higher risk for poor outcomes than White women; and
- 7 WHEREAS, at 12.5 infant deaths per 1,000 live births, the Delaware Black infant mortality rate is 2.3 times higher
- 8 than the White infant mortality rate of 5.1 infant deaths per 1,000 live births; and
- 9 WHEREAS, the State of Delaware ranks 14<sup>th</sup> in the nation for highest prevalence of infant mortality; and
- 10 WHEREAS, Delaware is committed to the health and wellbeing of women and families in our state; and
- 11 WHEREAS, the State of Delaware—through the efforts of the Delaware Healthy Mother and Infant Consortium,
- 12 the Delaware Perinatal Quality Collaborative, and many other stakeholders—works to promote various promising efforts
- 13 such as the OB Hemorrhage Initiative to reduce maternal and infant mortality, morbidity, and disparities; and improve
- 14 public and professional awareness of the issues related to improving maternal health outcomes, women’s experiences at
- 15 childbirth, and critical postpartum care, especially for women of color; and
- 16 WHEREAS, Delaware recognizes that every woman deserves quality, affordable, culturally respectful maternal
- 17 health care and reaffirms a statewide commitment to reducing maternal mortality, morbidity, and racial health disparities
- 18 among Delaware women; and
- 19 WHEREAS, to tackle the problem of maternal mortality, Delaware is committed to developing a multi-faceted
- 20 approach to addressing persistent and dire health disparities, and the social determinants of health, the conditions under
- 21 which people live, work, and play; and

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

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

26 WHEREAS, in order to improve public and professional awareness of the issues related to Black maternal health  
27 and mortality, and to promote the various promising efforts to reduce Black maternal mortality, morbidity, and disparities,  
28 it is both reasonable and appropriate to recognize the first annual "Black Maternal Health Awareness Week April 11-19,  
29 2019" in the State of Delaware and to annually invite community members and health care professionals, during this week,  
30 to participate in appropriate activities relating to Black maternal health, safety and mortality.

31 NOW, THEREFORE:

32 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the 150<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the State of Delaware, the  
33 Senate concurring therein, that we recognize April 11-17, 2021 as Black Maternal Health Awareness Week in Delaware.

#### SYNOPSIS

This Resolution recognizes the week of April 11-17, 2021 as "Black Maternal Health Awareness Week" in Delaware.