



SPONSOR: Sen. S. McBride & Sen. Gay & Rep. Bentz &  
Rep. Minor-Brown & Sen. Townsend &  
Rep. Dorsey Walker  
Sens. Bonini, Brown, Ennis, Hansen, Hocker, Lawson,  
Lockman, Lopez, Mantzavinos, Paradee, Pettyjohn,  
Pinkney, Poore, Richardson, Sokola, Sturgeon, Walsh,  
Wilson; Reps. Baumbach, Griffith, Heffernan, Hensley,  
K. Johnson, Kowalko, Mitchell, Morrison, Osienski,  
Ramone, Michael Smith, Wilson-Anton

DELAWARE STATE SENATE  
151st GENERAL ASSEMBLY

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 67

PROCLAIMING JANUARY 23, 2022, AS "MATERNAL HEALTH AWARENESS DAY" IN THE STATE OF DELAWARE.

1 WHEREAS, the number of pregnancy-related deaths in the United States, which equals the number of women  
2 who die during pregnancy or within 1 year after childbirth from any cause that is related to, or aggravated by, the  
3 pregnancy, has continued to rise, despite recent advances in medical science and technology; and

4 WHEREAS, in 1986, the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention implemented a Pregnancy Mortality  
5 Surveillance System to obtain information about the frequency and causes of pregnancy-related death in the United States;  
6 and

7 WHEREAS, in 2017, there were approximately 17.3 pregnancy-related deaths per 100,000 live births in the  
8 United States; and in Delaware, pregnancy-related deaths for calendar years 2015-2019 were 13 deaths per 100,000 live  
9 births; and

10 WHEREAS, the Pregnancy Mortality Surveillance System indicates that the rate of pregnancy-related deaths  
11 varies by race, ethnicity, and age, with the highest mortality rate being evidenced among Black women, which is  
12 consistently 3 to 4 times higher than for white women; and

13 WHEREAS, promising initiatives to reduce pregnancy-related deaths include the Safe Motherhood Initiative,  
14 developed by the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists ("ACOG"); the Postpartum Hemorrhage Project,  
15 developed by the Association of Women's Health, Obstetric, and Neonatal Nurses; and the Alliance for Innovation on  
16 Maternal Health ("AIM"), a national partnership of organizations that is poised to reduce severe maternal morbidity  
17 through initiatives that are being implemented in Delaware and other states; and

18 WHEREAS, on a statewide basis, the Delaware Section of ACOG and the Delaware Quality Perinatal  
19 Collaborative have each indicated their full support for these initiatives; and

20 WHEREAS, the AIM program facilitates multidisciplinary and interagency collaboration between states and  
21 hospitals, supports continuous and harmonized data-driven quality improvement processes, and provides evidence-based  
22 resources to streamline bundle implementation; and

23 WHEREAS, data have shown that COVID-19 infection puts pregnant people at increased risk of severe  
24 complications and even death; yet, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, only about 22%  
25 of pregnant individuals have received one or more doses of the COVID-19 vaccine; and

26 WHEREAS, recent data have shown that more than 95% of those who are hospitalized or dying from COVID-19  
27 are those who have remained unvaccinated. Pregnant individuals who have decided to wait until after delivery to be  
28 vaccinated may be inadvertently exposing themselves to an increased risk of severe illness or death; and

29 WHEREAS, ACOG and the Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine encourage pregnant individuals to get vaccinated  
30 without delay because widespread uptake of the vaccines is the best chance to save lives and end this pandemic; and

31 WHEREAS, in order to improve public and professional awareness of the issues related to maternal health and  
32 mortality, and promote the various promising initiatives that are being undertaken to reduce maternal mortality, it is both  
33 reasonable and appropriate to establish "Maternal Health Awareness Day" in the State and invite community members and  
34 health care professionals, on that day, to participate in appropriate activities relating to maternal health, safety, and  
35 mortality.

36 NOW, THEREFORE:

37 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the 151st General Assembly of the State of Delaware, the House of  
38 Representatives concurring therein, that the General Assembly hereby designates January 23, 2022, as "Maternal Health  
39 Awareness Day" in the State of Delaware, in order to raise public and professional awareness about important maternal  
40 health, safety, and mortality issues, including racial disparities in women's health; highlight obstetrical pathways that  
41 promote maternal safety; educate the citizens of Delaware about promising maternal health initiatives, and encourage the  
42 development of new programs and initiatives that are designed to proactively address issues of maternal health and  
43 mortality.

#### SYNOPSIS

This Senate Concurrent Resolution proclaims January 23, 2022, as "Maternal Health Awareness Day" in the State of Delaware.

Author: Senator S. McBride