

SENATE RESOLUTION NO.33

Senators Geiss, Polehanki, Chang, Hollier, Alexander, Bullock, Irwin, McMorro, Brinks, Bayer, Santana, Moss, Wojno, Hertel, Ananich and Bizon, Lucido and McCann offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to commemorate April 11-17, 2019, as Black
2 Maternal Health Week.

3 Whereas, According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC),
4 black mothers in the United States die at three to four times the
5 rate of white mothers; and

6 Whereas, The CDC data from 2011-2013 for pregnancy-related
7 deaths shows there were 12.7 deaths per 100,000 live births for
8 white women, 43.5 deaths per 100,000 live births for black women,
9 and 14.4 deaths per 100,000 live births for women of other races;
10 and

1 Whereas, Black maternal death is one of the widest of all
2 racial disparities in women's health; and

3 Whereas, Black women are 22 percent more likely to die from
4 heart disease than white women, 71 percent more likely to die from
5 cervical cancer, but 243 percent more likely to die from pregnancy-
6 or childbirth-related causes; and

7 Whereas, According to the National Institutes of Health, when
8 compared with white women with the conditions for preeclampsia,
9 eclampsia, abruptio placentae, placenta previa, and postpartum
10 hemorrhage, which are common causes of maternal death and injury,
11 black women were two to three times more likely to die than white
12 women who had the same condition; and

13 Whereas, Between 1999 to 2010, according to the Michigan
14 Maternal Mortality Surveillance Project, black women in Michigan
15 experienced a pregnancy-related mortality rate of 50.8 per 100,000
16 live births compared to 16.6 per 100,000 live births for white
17 women in Michigan; and

18 Whereas, the U.S. has the highest maternal death rate in the
19 developed world and our state ranks 27th in the nation for maternal
20 death; and

21 Whereas, These alarming statistics for black maternal health
22 cut across socio-economic status, maternal age, and education
23 levels; and

24 Whereas, The Michigan Legislature recognizes the necessity for
25 the increased attention to the state of black maternal health,
26 studying and understanding the root causes of poor maternal health
27 outcomes and supporting community-driven programs, care solutions,
28 improving prenatal care and overall maternal healthcare, improving
29 breastfeeding rates and nutrition, and amplifying the voices of

1 black mothers, women, families, and stakeholders including black
2 women from across the diaspora and Afro-Latinx groups; and

3 Whereas, We also recognize the necessity to end maternal
4 mortality globally in order to amplify the need for maternal health
5 and rights; now, therefore, be it

6 Resolved by the Senate, That the members of this legislative
7 body commemorate April 11-17, 2019, as Black Maternal Health Week.