

## SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 28

Senator Geiss offered the following resolution:

1           A resolution to commemorate April 11-17, 2023, 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 two to three times the  
5 rate of white mothers; and

6           Whereas, The CDC data from 2021 for pregnancy-related deaths  
7 shows that maternal mortality rates are increasing rapidly, 26.6  
8 deaths per 100,000 live births for white women, 69.9 deaths per  
9 100,000 live births for Black women, and 32.1 deaths per 100,000  
10 live births for women of all races in the United States; and

11           Whereas, Black maternal death is one of the widest but not the  
12 only racial disparities in women's health; and

1           Whereas, Black women are 22 percent more likely to die from  
2 heart disease than white women, 71 percent more likely to die from  
3 cervical cancer, and three to four times more likely to die from  
4 pregnancy-related or childbirth-related causes; and

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

11           Whereas, According to the Michigan Maternal Mortality  
12 Surveillance Project, between 2015 to 2019, Black women in Michigan  
13 experienced a pregnancy-related mortality rate of 29.8 deaths per  
14 100,000 live births compared to 10.7 deaths per 100,000 live births  
15 for white women in Michigan; and

16           Whereas, According to the Commonwealth Fund, the United States  
17 has the highest maternal death rate in high-income countries in  
18 which two-thirds of all recorded deaths are deemed to be  
19 preventable, and our state currently ranks 25th in the nation for  
20 maternal deaths; 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, We recognize the necessity for increased attention to  
25 the state for Black maternal healthcare as well as the need to  
26 study and understand the root causes of the discrepancies in  
27 maternal health outcomes; and

28           Whereas, We support community-driven programs, care solutions,  
29 the improvement of prenatal care and overall maternal healthcare,

1 the improvement of breastfeeding rates and nutrition, and the  
2 amplification of the voices of Black mothers, women, families, and  
3 stakeholders, including Black women from across the diaspora and  
4 Afro-Latinx groups; and

5       Whereas, We also recognize the necessity to end maternal  
6 mortality statewide, nationally, and globally in order to  
7 strengthen the need for maternal health and maternal rights; now,  
8 therefore, be it

9       Resolved by the Senate, That the members of this legislative  
10 body commemorate April 11-17, 2023, as Black Maternal Health Week.