

2023 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 16

BY REPRESENTATIVE CARPENTER

SPECIAL DAY/WEEK/MONTH: Recognizes April 11-17, 2023, as Black Maternal Health Week in the state

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 To recognize April 11-17, 2023, as Black Maternal Health Week.

3 WHEREAS, the wonders of pregnancy and childbirth can be the beginning joys of
4 motherhood, leading to a lifetime of happiness and fulfillment; while many women
5 experience pregnancy and childbirth with few challenges, each year there are women who
6 needlessly face short-term, long-term, and dangerous complications, with some
7 complications resulting in death; and

8 WHEREAS, compared to white women, black women are more likely to experience
9 preventable maternal death; in 2020, the maternal mortality rate for black women was more
10 than fifty-five deaths per one hundred thousand live births; according to the Centers for
11 Disease Control and Prevention, in 2020, eight hundred sixty-one women died of maternal
12 causes in the United States; in 2021, that number rose to one thousand two hundred five
13 women who died of maternal causes in this country, as reported by the National Center for
14 Health Statistics; this translates into more than thirty-three deaths per one hundred thousand
15 live births nationally; and

16 WHEREAS, Louisiana unfortunately leads the nation with the highest maternal
17 mortality rate; according to the Louisiana Department of Health, black mothers are four
18 times more likely to die from a pregnancy-related cause than their white counterparts; the
19 alarming rate of black maternal mortality in this state can be attributed to a number of factors
20 including systemic bias, socioeconomic status, lack of access to quality health care, and lack

1 of adequate health coverage; experiencing pregnancy and childbirth should not be a death
2 sentence for any woman because of her station in life; and

3 WHEREAS, reducing the number of preventable maternal deaths and reducing health
4 disparities among women should be a top priority of this state; it can be shown that
5 improving health outcomes for pregnancy and childbirth increases the survival rate of
6 mothers and their ability to raise their own children and makes a positive impact on the state;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, it is important to support every woman who experiences pregnancy and
9 childbirth; it is vital for healthcare providers to recognize the signs of and properly diagnose
10 maternal complications in a timely and effective manner so that appropriate treatment can
11 be rendered; and

12 WHEREAS, Black Maternal Health Week is dedicated to building awareness,
13 activism, and community and is recognized every year, from April 11-17, as part of the
14 observation of National Minority Health Month in April; and

15 WHEREAS, in an effort to increase awareness of maternal and infant health
16 outcomes black women endure, Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc., launched its initiative and
17 essential program, Project CRADLE Care, and has joined forces with many other
18 organizations to highlight and recognize Black Maternal Health Week.

19 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
20 recognize April 11-17, 2023, as Black Maternal Health Week in the state.

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
22 executive director of Black Mamas Matter Alliance and the president of the Mu Sigma
23 Chapter of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc., in Baton Rouge.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]
