

2023 -- H 5241

LC001040

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2023

HOUSE RESOLUTION

PROCLAIMING JANUARY 23, 2023, TO BE "MATERNAL HEALTH AWARENESS DAY"
IN THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

Introduced By: Representatives Felix, Kazarian, Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Chippendale,
Tanzi, Kennedy, Fellela, Ajello, and Azzinaro

Date Introduced: January 26, 2023

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, Maternal health is integral to the health of our State, communities and
2 families; and

3 WHEREAS, According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), more
4 than 80 percent of maternal deaths in the United States are preventable, and severe maternal
5 morbidity regarding pregnancy-related complications lead to major short or long-term health
6 consequences; and

7 WHEREAS, The rate of severe maternal morbidity among Rhode Island women
8 delivering in hospitals is consistently higher than the national rate; and

9 WHEREAS, All pregnant individuals should have access to comprehensive and timely
10 prenatal services across the healthcare continuum, and reducing prenatal health inequities through
11 policy and systems change can help improve opportunities for every Rhode Islander; and

12 WHEREAS, To combat the maternal mortality rate, the State of Rhode Island has
13 engaged in ongoing efforts to systematically collect and comprehensively review maternal deaths
14 through the Pregnancy & Post-Partum Death Review Committee; and

15 WHEREAS, More than one in four Rhode Island pregnant people have delivered a baby
16 by a preventable cesarean delivery; and

17 WHEREAS, Maternal substance use is increasing, with nearly one in four Rhode Island
18 pregnant people reporting substance use at any time, just before, during, or after their pregnancy;
19 and

1 WHEREAS, The State of Rhode Island is collaborating with community organizations,
2 hospital and health systems and clinical collaborations including the Perinatal Neonatal Quality
3 Collaborative (PNQC) of Rhode Island, the Alliance for Innovation on Maternal Health (AIM) of
4 Rhode Island, the Rhode Island Prematurity task Force to reduce maternal mortality and severe
5 morbidity through collaboration and implementation of evidence-based initiatives; and

6 WHEREAS, The State of Rhode Island is committed to protecting the health and well-
7 being of pregnant people by continuing public awareness and understanding of health risks and
8 factors that contribute to maternal death, to improving public and professional awareness of the
9 issues related to maternal health and mortality, and promoting the various efforts to reduce
10 maternal mortality, morbidity, and disparities; now, therefore be it

11 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island hereby
12 proclaims January 23, 2023, to be “Maternal Health Awareness Day” in the State of Rhode
13 Island; and be it further

14 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
15 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Mr. Robert P. Dulski, Director of Advocacy,
16 Rhode Island Medical Society.

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