

2020 -- H 7608

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2020

HOUSE RESOLUTION

CELEBRATING THE WEEK OF MARCH 22ND THROUGH MARCH 28TH, 2020, AS
"WORLD DOULA WEEK" IN THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

Introduced By: Representatives Ranglin-Vassell, Almeida, Alzate, Speakman, and
Cassar

Date Introduced: February 14, 2020

Referred To: House Health, Education & Welfare

1 WHEREAS, In the United States, maternal mortality rates are among the highest in the
2 developed world and increased by 23.8 percent between 2000 and 2014; and

3 WHEREAS, Of the four million American women who give birth each year, about seven
4 hundred suffer fatal complications during pregnancy, while giving birth, or during the postpartum
5 period, and an additional fifty thousand are severely injured; and

6 WHEREAS, It is estimated that half of the maternal mortalities in the United States could
7 be prevented and half of the maternal injuries in the United States could be reduced or eliminated
8 with better care; and

9 WHEREAS, Doulas are professionals trained to care for and support families during the
10 pregnancy, labor, and birth by providing emotional, physical, and instructional support with
11 traditional comfort measures and educational materials, as well as assistance during the transition
12 to parenthood in the initial postpartum period through home visits; and

13 WHEREAS, Birth doulas respect a family's individual beliefs and needs. A growing
14 body of evidence indicates that stress from racism and racial discrimination results in conditions -
15 - including hypertension and pre-eclampsia -- that contribute to poor maternal health outcomes
16 among black women; and

17 WHEREAS, Black women in the United States suffer from life-threatening pregnancy
18 complications twice as often as their white counterparts and their risk of maternal mortality has
19 remained higher than white women's risk for the past six decades; and

1 WHEREAS, In addition, studies in Oregon, Minnesota, and Wisconsin have shown that
2 using a doula can save money; and

3 WHEREAS, Currently in the United States, one in three births is a C-section. They cost
4 about fifty percent more than conventional births. Using a doula reduces the chances of the need
5 for a C-section by twenty-five percent; and

6 WHEREAS, According to the manuscript entitled “modeling the cost effectiveness of
7 doula care associated with reductions in preterm birth and cesarean delivery”, in Minnesota,
8 women who received doula support had lower preterm and cesarean birth rates than Medicaid
9 beneficiaries regionally (4.7 percent vs. 6.3 percent, and 20.4 percent vs. 34.2 percent). Data has
10 shown that women with doula care have had twenty-two percent lower odds of preterm birth.
11 Cost-effectiveness analyses indicate potential savings associated with doula support reimbursed at
12 an average of nine hundred eighty six dollars (ranging from nine hundred twenty-nine dollars to
13 one thousand forty-seven dollars across states); now, therefore be it

14 RESOLVED, That this House hereby celebrates the week of March 22nd through March
15 28th, 2020, as "World Doula Week" in the State of Rhode Island and recognizes the vital need
16 and usefulness of perinatal doula services in order to provide medical assistance health care for
17 expectant mothers; and be it further

18 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
19 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to Doulas of Rhode Island, Open Circle Rhode
20 Island, and Rhode Island Doula Services.

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