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**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND**

**IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2024**

**SENATE RESOLUTION**

**CELEBRATING "BLACK MATERNAL HEALTH WEEK" ON APRIL 11TH - 17TH, 2024, IN  
THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND**

Introduced By: Senators Mack, Ujifusa, E Morgan, F. Lombardi, Rogers, LaMountain,  
Britto, Lawson, Ciccone, and Gallo

Date Introduced: April 11, 2024

Referred To: Recommended for Immediate Consideration

1           WHEREAS, This year marks the seventh annual "Black Maternal Health Week" which  
2 was founded and is led by the Black Mamas Matter Alliance. This year's theme is "Our Bodies  
3 STILL Belong to Us: Reproductive Justice NOW!"; and

4           WHEREAS, The campaign is observed across the country in order to raise awareness for  
5 Black maternal health by enhancing the dialogue, increasing community involvement, and  
6 promoting solutions, policies, and research; and

7           WHEREAS, National severe maternal morbidity (SMM) rates have increased by almost  
8 200 percent since 1993, and the incidence of SMM is 2.6 times the rate percent higher for Black  
9 women than white women; and

10          WHEREAS, Currently, very little research exists that examines the root causes of the  
11 racial disparities in maternal health in the United States; and

12          WHEREAS, In order to improve maternal health outcomes for Black women, systemic  
13 change in maternal health care that ensures that the methods used to address implicit bias and  
14 racism align with Black women's needs, values, and preferences and address the ways in which  
15 health care systems perpetuate inequality is essential; and

16          WHEREAS, The Associate Director of the Office of Research on Women's Health stated,  
17 "Understanding the variations in experiences across socioecological domains between white and  
18 minority women in the United States is important in developing more effective policies and  
19 programs to reduce racial disparities in MMM [maternal morbidity and mortality] and, ultimately,

1 save mothers”; now, therefore be it

2 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island hereby celebrates "Black  
3 Maternal Health Week" on April 11th - 17th, 2024, and urges all Rhode Islanders to advocate for  
4 effective policies, and solutions to eliminate racism, bias, and inequities in maternal care; and be  
5 it further

6 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to  
7 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to the Black Mamas Matter Alliance.

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