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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2025

SENATE RESOLUTION

COMMEMORATING "BLACK MATERNAL HEALTH WEEK" ON APRIL 11TH - 17TH,
2025, IN THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

Introduced By: Senator Tiara T. Mack

Date Introduced: April 10, 2025

Referred To: Recommended for Immediate Consideration

1 WHEREAS, This year marks the eighth annual "Black Maternal Health Week" which
2 was founded and is led by the Black Mamas Matter Alliance; and
3 WHEREAS, The week is observed across the country in order to raise awareness for
4 Black maternal health by enhancing the dialogue, increasing community involvement, and
5 promoting solutions, policies, and research; and
6 WHEREAS, Disproportionately, Black women are 50 percent more likely than all other
7 women to give birth to premature, low birthweight, and very low birthweight infants with the
8 leading causes of maternal mortality among Black women and birthing persons including
9 eclampsia, preeclampsia, postpartum cardiomyopathy, and obstetric embolism; and
10 WHEREAS, The high rates of maternal mortality impacting Black women and birthing
11 people span across three major factors, income levels, education levels, and socioeconomic status
12 with structural racism, gender oppression, and the social determinants of health inequities
13 experienced by Black women in the United States significantly contributing to the
14 disproportionately high rates and playing a consequential role in maternal health care experiences
15 and outcomes of Black birthing people; and
16 WHEREAS, In order to improve maternal health outcomes for Black women, systemic
17 change in maternal health care that ensures that the methods used to address implicit bias and
18 racism align with Black women’s needs, values, and preferences and address the ways in which
19 health care systems perpetuate inequality is essential; and

1 WHEREAS, The Associate Director of the Office of Research on Women's Health stated,
2 “Understanding the variations in experiences across socioecological domains between white and
3 minority women in the United States is important in developing more effective policies and
4 programs to reduce racial disparities in MMM [maternal morbidity and mortality] and, ultimately,
5 save mothers”; now, therefore be it

6 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island hereby commemorates "Black
7 Maternal Health Week" on April 11th - 17th, 2025, and urges all Rhode Islanders to advocate for
8 effective policies, and solutions to eliminate racism, bias, and inequities in maternal care; and be
9 it further

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

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