86R9653 GM-D

By:  Thierry H.C.R. No. 48

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Maternal health is a vital concern to any society with an interest in the present and future well-being of women, children, and families, and Maternal Health Month in April serves as a time to call attention to and mobilize action to address maternal health disparities and inequities; and

WHEREAS, Defined by the World Health Organization as the health of women during pregnancy, childbirth, and the postpartum period, maternal health is a human rights issue with serious and far-reaching implications for every individual, community, and country; and

WHEREAS, The United States has the highest rate of maternal mortality among all developed nations, and that rate is continuing to rise, even as the rest of the developed world is seeing fewer and fewer deaths from pregnancy-related complications; several factors have been cited as contributing to the heightened risk of death for American mothers, including inadequate state and federal funding for maternal health as well as inefficient hospital protocols for dealing with maternal emergencies; and

WHEREAS, Black women in the U.S. are more likely to suffer from severe maternal morbidity than any other demographic group; according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, African American mothers die at three to four times the rate of white mothers, and this extreme disparity in maternal mortality holds true across all income and education levels; and

WHEREAS, The fair distribution of resources, especially with regard to reproductive health care services and maternal health programming, is critical to closing the racial gap in maternal health outcomes; a greater investment must be made in women's maternity care and in policies that support and promote affordable, comprehensive, holistic, and equitable maternal health care; and

WHEREAS, By spreading awareness of this crucial issue, health professionals and concerned Texans alike are working to make maternal health a more urgent priority for our state, to bring an end to preventable maternal mortality, and to ensure a higher standard of care for Texas mothers; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the 86th Legislature of the State of Texas hereby designate April as Maternal Health Month; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That in accordance with the provisions of Section 391.004(d), Government Code, this designation remain in effect until the 10th anniversary of the date this resolution is finally passed by the legislature.