

By: Thierry

H.C.R. No. 18

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

15           RESOLVED, That in accordance with the provisions of Section  
16 [391.004\(d\)](#), Government Code, this designation remain in effect  
17 until the 10th anniversary of the date this resolution is finally  
18 passed by the legislature.