87R8003 JGH-D

By:  Thierry H.C.R. No. 28

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 the observance of Black Maternal Health Week from April 11 through 17 focuses attention to the disparities and inequities in maternal health for Black women; and

WHEREAS, Created by the Black Mamas Matter Alliance, Black Maternal Health Week serves to amplify the voices of Black mothers as well as the values and traditions of the reproductive justice and birth justice movements; 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 deaths from pregnancy-related complications; several factors have been cited as contributing to the heightened risk of death for American women, including inadequate state and federal funding for maternal health as well as inefficient hospital protocols for dealing with maternal emergencies; and

WHEREAS, Black mothers in the U.S. have been disproportionately affected by severe maternal morbidity compared with other demographic groups; according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, African American mothers die at three times the rate of White mothers; the fair distribution of reproductive health care services and maternal health programming is critical to closing the racial gap in maternal health outcomes, and a greater investment must be made in Black 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 other concerned Texans are working to make maternal health for Black women a more urgent priority, to bring an end to preventable maternal mortality, and to ensure a higher standard of care for Black mothers in the Lone Star State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the 87th Legislature of the State of Texas hereby designate April 11 through 17 as Black Maternal Health Week; 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.