

By: Thierry

H.C.R. No. 28

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

6 WHEREAS, Created by the Black Mamas Matter Alliance, Black  
7 Maternal Health Week serves to amplify the voices of Black mothers  
8 as well as the values and traditions of the reproductive justice and  
9 birth justice movements; and

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

18 WHEREAS, Black mothers in the U.S. have been  
19 disproportionately affected by severe maternal morbidity compared  
20 with other demographic groups; according to the Centers for Disease  
21 Control and Prevention, African American mothers die at three times  
22 the rate of White mothers; the fair distribution of reproductive  
23 health care services and maternal health programming is critical to  
24 closing the racial gap in maternal health outcomes, and a greater

1 investment must be made in Black women's maternity care and in  
2 policies that support and promote affordable, comprehensive,  
3 holistic, and equitable maternal health care; and

4 WHEREAS, By spreading awareness of this crucial issue, health  
5 professionals and other concerned Texans are working to make  
6 maternal health for Black women a more urgent priority, to bring an  
7 end to preventable maternal mortality, and to ensure a higher  
8 standard of care for Black mothers in the Lone Star State; now,  
9 therefore, be it

10 RESOLVED, That the 87th Legislature of the State of Texas  
11 hereby designate April 11 through 17 as Black Maternal Health Week;  
12 and, be it further

13 RESOLVED, That, in accordance with the provisions of Section  
14 [391.004\(d\)](#), Government Code, this designation remain in effect  
15 until the 10th anniversary of the date this resolution is finally  
16 passed by the legislature.