
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 373 Session of
2024

INTRODUCED BY CURRY, MAYES, CEPHAS, PROBST, DONAHUE, BULLOCK,
GIRAL, HOHENSTEIN, WAXMAN, SCHLOSSBERG, VENKAT, KHAN,
PISCIOTTANO, SANCHEZ, KENYATTA, RABB, KINSEY, POWELL,
McANDREW, HANBIDGE, HILL-EVANS AND N. NELSON, APRIL 3, 2024

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES, APRIL 3, 2024

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the week of April 11 through 17, 2024, as "Black
2 Maternal Health Week" in Pennsylvania to bring attention to
3 the maternal health crisis and the importance of reducing
4 maternal mortality and morbidity among Black women and
5 birthing persons.

6 WHEREAS, According to the Centers for Disease Control and
7 Prevention, Black women in the United States are 2.6 times more
8 likely than White women to die from pregnancy-related causes;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, Black women in the United States suffer from life-
11 threatening pregnancy complications, known as maternal
12 morbidities, twice as often as White women; and

13 WHEREAS, Maternal mortality rates in the United States are
14 among the highest of any member country of the Organization for
15 Economic Co-operation and Development and are increasing rapidly
16 from 17.4 deaths per 100,000 live births in 2018, to 32.1 deaths
17 per 100,000 live births in 2021; and

18 WHEREAS, The United States has the highest maternal mortality

1 rate among affluent countries, in part because of the
2 disproportionate maternal mortality rate of Black women; and

3 WHEREAS, The rate of preterm births among Black women is
4 nearly 50% higher than the preterm birth rate among White or
5 Hispanic women; and

6 WHEREAS, The high rates of maternal mortality among Black
7 women span across income levels, education levels and
8 socioeconomic status; and

9 WHEREAS, In 2018, the overall pregnancy-associated mortality
10 rate for Pennsylvania was 82 deaths per 100,000 live births; and

11 WHEREAS, In 2018, the pregnancy-associated mortality rate for
12 non-Hispanic Blacks was 163 deaths per 100,000 live births, two
13 times the rate of deaths for non-Hispanic Whites; and

14 WHEREAS, Individuals 40 years of age or older had a
15 pregnancy-associated mortality rate more than two times higher
16 than individuals 25 to 29 years of age, 30 to 34 years of age
17 and 35 to 39 years of age; and

18 WHEREAS, Fifty-eight percent of deaths occurred between 42
19 and 365 days of delivery, beyond the standard 60 days of medical
20 assistance coverage for pregnant women in Pennsylvania; and

21 WHEREAS, Ninety-two percent of pregnancy-related deaths in
22 Pennsylvania are considered preventable; and

23 WHEREAS, Fifty-three percent of cases of maternal death in
24 Pennsylvania between 2013 and 2018 affected mothers who were
25 enrolled in medical assistance when they delivered; and

26 WHEREAS, Approximately one-half of pregnancy-associated death
27 cases in Pennsylvania did not receive adequate prenatal care;
28 and

29 WHEREAS, Philadelphia County accounts for 20% of
30 Pennsylvania's maternal deaths with an average of 18 deaths per

1 year; and

2 WHEREAS, Philadelphia County's rate of pregnancy-related
3 deaths from 2013 to 2018 was approximately 20 per 100,000 live
4 births, which is higher than the 2018 national rate of 17.4 per
5 100,000 live births; and

6 WHEREAS, Pregnancy-related deaths for Black women and
7 birthing persons in Pittsburgh is higher than 97% of similar
8 cities in the United States, despite starting prenatal care
9 earlier than Black pregnant individuals in similar cities and
10 having lower rates of gestational diabetes, hypertension and
11 infection; and

12 WHEREAS, In Allegheny County at large, Black women are dying
13 at a rate three times higher than White women; therefore be it

14 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the
15 week of April 11 through 17, 2024, as "Black Maternal Health
16 Week" in Pennsylvania to bring attention to the maternal health
17 crisis and the importance of reducing maternal mortality and
18 morbidity among Black women and birthing persons.