

HR 8057

2021

1 House Resolution

2 A resolution designating the week of April 11-17,
3 2021, as "Black Maternal Health Awareness Week" in
4 Florida.

5
6 WHEREAS, the national Black Maternal Health Week campaign,
7 founded and led by the Black Mamas Matter Alliance, is a week of
8 awareness and community building, and

9 WHEREAS, Black Maternal Health Week is intended to increase
10 attention to the state of Black maternal health in the United
11 States; the root causes of poor maternal health outcomes; and
12 community-driven policy, programs, and care solutions, and

13 WHEREAS, while the United States spends more on health care
14 than any other country, it has the worst disparities in maternal
15 health outcomes and experienced an increase in the maternal
16 mortality rate between 1990 and 2013, and

17 WHEREAS, in 2018, Black women in Florida experienced
18 pregnancy-related mortality at a rate nearly three times that of
19 white women, with 32 deaths per 100,000 live births as compared
20 to 12.9 deaths per 100,000 deaths, respectively, and

21 WHEREAS, according to the Centers for Disease Control and
22 Prevention, Black women in the United States are three to four
23 times more likely than white women to die from pregnancy-related
24 causes, and

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25 WHEREAS, Black women in the United States suffer from life
26 threatening pregnancy complications, known as "maternal
27 morbidities," twice as often as white women, and

28 WHEREAS, maternal mortality rates in the United States are
29 among the highest in the world and increasing rapidly, and

30 WHEREAS, the United States has the highest maternal
31 mortality rate among affluent countries, in part because of the
32 disproportionate mortality rate of Black mothers, and

33 WHEREAS, these deaths have devastating effects on Black
34 children and families, and the vast majority of these deaths are
35 preventable through efforts to ensure that Black birthing people
36 can access information, services, and support to make their own
37 health care decisions, particularly around pregnancy and
38 childbearing, and

39 WHEREAS, high rates of maternal mortality among Black women
40 occur across income levels, educational levels, and
41 socioeconomic status, and

42 WHEREAS, even as there is growing concern about improving
43 access to mental health services, Black birthing people are the
44 least likely to have access to mental health screenings,
45 treatment, and support before, during, and after pregnancy, and

46 WHEREAS, greater equitable access to prevention, early
47 identification, and effective treatment services that are
48 delivered in appropriate care settings can improve Black

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49 birthing people's chronic health conditions and maternal health,
50 and

51 WHEREAS, Black Maternal Health Awareness Week serves to
52 raise awareness of the state of Black maternal health and
53 amplify the voices of Black women and birthing persons,
54 families, and communities and is an opportunity to fight to end
55 maternal mortality locally and globally, NOW, THEREFORE,

56

57 Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of
58 Florida:

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60 That the week of April 11-17, 2021, is designated as "Black
61 Maternal Health Awareness Week" in Florida.