

**As Reported by the House Behavioral Health Committee**

**135th General Assembly**

**Regular Session**

**2023-2024**

**H. C. R. No. 16**

**Representatives Somani, Ray**

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**A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

Recognizing the importance of perinatal mental health. 1

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF OHIO (THE SENATE CONCURRING):**

WHEREAS, Depression and other mental health conditions are 2  
the most common complications of pregnancy, childbirth, and the 3  
postpartum period; and 4

WHEREAS, The perinatal period, from pregnancy through the 5  
first year postpartum, is a transitional period that can result 6  
in anxiety and stress for many birthing individuals; and 7

WHEREAS, Perinatal stress, anxiety, and depression can 8  
adversely impact the physical and psychological health of women 9  
and their children; and 10

WHEREAS, According to the American College of Obstetricians 11  
and Gynecologists, up to 85% of women and birthing persons 12  
experience some type of mood disturbance during the postpartum 13  
period; and 14

WHEREAS, One in five mothers and birthing persons develop 15  
more significant symptoms of depression or anxiety, including 16  
obsessive-compulsive disorder, panic disorder, and post- 17  
traumatic stress disorder; and 18

WHEREAS, According to the Cleveland Clinic, postpartum 19

psychosis affects between one and two per 1000 mothers, often 20  
develops rapidly, and may place the life of the mother and 21  
infant in danger related to its symptoms, which may include 22  
delusions, hallucinations, severe mood symptoms, and cognitive 23  
symptoms; and 24

WHEREAS, According to the Ohio Department of Health's 25  
Pregnancy-Associated Mortality Review Program, mental health 26  
conditions are currently the leading cause of pregnancy-related 27  
deaths in Ohio; and 28

WHEREAS, Mental health conditions affect mothers and 29  
mothers-to-be of all races, ages, and socioeconomic levels; and 30

WHEREAS, Pregnant and parenting people with untreated 31  
mental health issues experience higher rates of infant and 32  
maternal mortality, family fragmentation, lack of prenatal care, 33  
low social support, financial and housing instability, co- 34  
occurring health complications, unmanageable job strain, 35  
difficulty meeting maternal role expectations, and childhood or 36  
perinatal trauma, including domestic and sexual abuse; and 37

WHEREAS, The societal impact of perinatal mental health 38  
conditions is pervasive, with far-reaching consequences on early 39  
childhood development, pediatric mental health, and general 40  
family well-being; and 41

WHEREAS, Undiagnosed and untreated perinatal mental health 42  
conditions are a silent health crisis in the United States, 43  
deserving recognition and action to save lives and improve the 44  
health and well-being of America's mothers, babies, fathers, 45  
families, and the community; now therefore be it 46

RESOLVED, That we, the members of the 135th General 47  
Assembly of the State of Ohio, recognize the importance of 48  
perinatal mental health and are supportive of a coordinated 49  
approach to address pressing challenges and drive change to 50

support improved maternal and birth outcomes in Ohio; and be it 51  
further 52

RESOLVED, That we, the members of the 135th General 53  
Assembly of the State of Ohio, encourage Ohio's continued 54  
investment in programs that provide support to pregnant women 55  
and newly parenting mothers; and be it further 56

RESOLVED, That we, the members of the 135th General 57  
Assembly of the State of Ohio, encourage communication with moms 58  
and birthing people to speak with their health care providers 59  
and peers about their experiences and drive better mental health 60  
outcomes; and be it further 61

RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the House of Representatives 62  
transmit duly authenticated copies of this resolution to the 63  
news media of Ohio. 64