



**State Representative Juanita Brent**  
**22<sup>nd</sup> House District**

**Sponsor Testimony - House Bill 190**

Chair Lipps, Vice Chair Stewart, Ranking Member Liston, and the members of the Public Health Policy Committee. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to testify today in support of House Bill 190 the Black Maternal Health Week Bill.

The Black Maternal Health week bill is meant to spotlight the issue of the racial disparity in maternal and infant health in Ohio. Black Maternal Health week is already recognized and celebrated on a national level.

This is my third time introducing this legislation receiving only one committee hearing. I have been working with organizations such as Birthing Beautiful Community, Village of Healing, ROOTT, Pregnant with possibilities, first year Cleveland and so many others regarding Black Maternal Health.

HB190 is only one of the many bills that have been proposed trying to reform our health systems and educate Ohioans more on the needs of birthing mothers such as better access to midwives and doulas. I have cosponsored bills such as HB 42 (134<sup>th</sup> GA) **The Enact Save Our Mothers Act**, HB142 (134<sup>th</sup> GA) **Doula Service Bills**, and HB 402 (134<sup>th</sup> GA) **The Ohio Midwife Practice Act**.

I respectfully ask for this Committee to support House Bill 190. I am willing to address any questions you may have. Thank you.