

**As Introduced**

**134th General Assembly  
Regular Session  
2021-2022**

**H. C. R. No. 15**

**Representatives Brent, Howse**

**Cosponsors: Representatives Boyd, Russo, Sykes, Galonski, Patton, Callender,  
Miranda, Riedel, Weinstein, Smith, K., Ingram, Lepore-Hagan, Kelly, Miller, A., Smith,  
M., Crawley, Upchurch, Jarrells, White, Hicks-Hudson, Sobecki, Lightbody**

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**A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

Designating the week of April 11 - April 17, 2021, as 1  
"Black Maternal Health Week" in Ohio. 2

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

WHEREAS, According to research compiled by the Commonwealth 3  
Fund, the United States ranks last in maternal mortality rate 4  
compared to other industrialized countries; and 5

WHEREAS, According to the University of Washington's 6  
Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation, the United States 7  
is the only developed country with rising maternal mortality 8  
rates; and 9

WHEREAS, The Maternal Health Task Force at the Harvard T.H. 10  
Chan School of Public Health notes that racial disparities are a 11  
key component of the United States' high maternal mortality 12  
rate; and 13

WHEREAS, According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) 14  
and Prevention, Black women nationally are three to four times 15  
more likely to die of pregnancy-related causes than White women; 16  
and 17

WHEREAS, Ohio Department of Health data indicate that in 18  
Ohio, Black women die of pregnancy-related causes at a rate two 19  
and a half times higher than White women; and 20

WHEREAS, The CDC reports that maternal mortality 21  
disparities exist across income and education levels; and 22

WHEREAS, Researchers at the CDC found that Black women are 23  
twice as likely to experience severe maternal morbidity than 24  
White women, which includes unexpected outcomes of pregnancy, 25  
labor, or delivery that result in significant short- or long- 26  
term consequences to a woman's health; and 27

WHEREAS, The March of Dimes reports that Black women are 28  
48% more likely to have a preterm birth than all other women; 29  
and 30

WHEREAS, The March of Dimes ranks Ohio 40th out of all 31  
states on its preterm birth racial and ethnic disparity index 32  
(with higher rankings having smaller gaps in preterm birth 33  
disparity); and 34

WHEREAS, Leading medical organizations, including the 35  
American Medical Association and the American Academy of Family 36  
Physicians, conclude that structural racism (a system in which 37  
public policies, institutional practices, and cultural 38  
representations work to reinforce and perpetuate racial 39  
inequality) in American health care and social service delivery 40  
is a primary reason why Black women experience disparities in 41  
health care not only during pregnancy but throughout their 42  
lives; and 43

WHEREAS, The alarmingly high rates of maternal mortality 44  
and severe maternal morbidity among Black women are 45  
unacceptable; and 46

WHEREAS, Recognizing Black Maternal Health Week can bring 47  
statewide attention to the maternal health care crisis in the 48

Black community and the importance of reducing the rate of 49  
maternal mortality and morbidity among Black women; and 50

WHEREAS, Black Maternal Health Week is an opportunity to 51  
increase attention to the state of Black maternal health in 52  
Ohio, amplify the voices of Black women and families, serve as a 53  
statewide platform for Black-women-led entities and efforts on 54  
maternal health, and enhance community organizing on Black 55  
maternal health; now therefore be it 56

RESOLVED, That we, the members of the 134th General 57  
Assembly of the State of Ohio, in adopting this resolution, 58  
recognize the week of April 11 - April 17, 2021, as Black 59  
Maternal Health Week in Ohio; and be it further 60

RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the House of Representatives 61  
transmit duly authenticated copies of this resolution to the 62  
news media of Ohio. 63