

**As Reported by the House Rules and Reference Committee**

**135th General Assembly**

**Regular Session**

**2023-2024**

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

**Representatives Somani, Ray**

**Cosponsor: Representative Russo**

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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; 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 experience some type of 12  
mood disturbance during the postpartum period; and 13

WHEREAS, One in five mothers develop more significant 14  
symptoms of depression or anxiety, including obsessive- 15  
compulsive disorder, panic disorder, and post-traumatic stress 16  
disorder; and 17

WHEREAS, According to the Cleveland Clinic, postpartum 18  
psychosis affects between one and two per 1000 mothers, often 19

develops rapidly, and may place the life of the mother and 20  
infant in danger related to its symptoms, which may include 21  
delusions, hallucinations, severe mood symptoms, and cognitive 22  
symptoms; and 23

WHEREAS, According to the Ohio Department of Health's 24  
Pregnancy-Associated Mortality Review Program, mental health 25  
conditions are currently the leading cause of pregnancy-related 26  
deaths in Ohio; and 27

WHEREAS, Mental health conditions affect mothers and 28  
mothers-to-be of all races, ages, and socioeconomic levels; and 29

WHEREAS, Pregnant women and parents with untreated mental 30  
health issues experience higher rates of infant and maternal 31  
mortality, family fragmentation, lack of prenatal care, low 32  
social support, financial and housing instability, co-occurring 33  
health complications, unmanageable job strain, difficulty 34  
meeting maternal role expectations, and childhood or perinatal 35  
trauma, including domestic and sexual abuse; and 36

WHEREAS, The societal impact of perinatal mental health 37  
conditions is pervasive, with far-reaching consequences on early 38  
childhood development, pediatric mental health, and general 39  
family well-being; and 40

WHEREAS, Undiagnosed and untreated perinatal mental health 41  
conditions are a silent health crisis in the United States, 42  
deserving recognition and action to save lives and improve the 43  
health and well-being of America's mothers, babies, fathers, 44  
families, and the community; now therefore be it 45

RESOLVED, That we, the members of the 135th General 46  
Assembly of the State of Ohio, recognize the importance of 47  
perinatal mental health and are supportive of a coordinated 48  
approach to address pressing challenges and drive change to 49  
support improved maternal and birth outcomes in Ohio; and be it 50

further	51
RESOLVED, That we, the members of the 135th General	52
Assembly of the State of Ohio, encourage Ohio's continued	53
investment in programs that provide support to pregnant women	54
and newly parenting mothers; and be it further	55
RESOLVED, That we, the members of the 135th General	56
Assembly of the State of Ohio, encourage communication with moms	57
to speak with their health care providers and peers about their	58
experiences and drive better mental health outcomes; and be it	59
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