

2021 -- H 6232

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2021

HOUSE RESOLUTION

CELEBRATING MARCH 22, 2021, THROUGH MARCH 28, 2021, AS "WORLD DOULA WEEK" IN THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

Introduced By: Representatives Ranglin-Vassell, Shekarchi, Blazejewski, McNamara, Kennedy, Fogarty, Speakman, Donovan, Ajello, and Shallcross Smith
Date Introduced: April 13, 2021

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, In the United States, maternal mortality rates are the highest in the
2 developed world and increased by 26.6 percent between 2000 and 2014; and

3 WHEREAS, It is estimated that half of the maternal mortalities in the United States could
4 be prevented with better care and half of the maternal injuries could be reduced or eliminated
5 with better care; and

6 WHEREAS, Of the four million American women who give birth each year, about seven
7 hundred suffer fatal complications during pregnancy, while giving birth, or during the postpartum
8 period, and an additional fifty thousand are severely injured; and

9 WHEREAS, Doulas are professionals trained to care for and support families during the
10 pregnancy, labor, and birth by providing emotional, physical, and instructional support with
11 traditional comfort measures and educational materials, as well as assistance during the transition
12 to parenthood in the initial postpartum period through home visits; and

13 WHEREAS, Birth doulas respect a family's individual beliefs and needs. A growing
14 body of evidence indicates that stress from racism and racial discrimination results in conditions,
15 including hypertension and pre-eclampsia, that contribute to poor maternal health outcomes
16 among black women; and

17 WHEREAS, Black women in the United States suffer from life-threatening pregnancy
18 complications twice as often as their white counterparts and their risk of maternal mortality has
19 remained higher than white women's risk for the past six decades; and

1 WHEREAS, Studies in Oregon, Minnesota, and Wisconsin have shown that using a
2 doula can save money. Currently in the United States, one-in-three births is a C-section, which
3 costs about fifty percent more than conventional births. Using a doula reduces the chances of the
4 need for a C-section by twenty-five percent; and

5 WHEREAS, According to the manuscript entitled “modeling the cost effectiveness of
6 doula care associated with reductions in preterm birth and cesarean delivery”, in Minnesota,
7 women who received doula support had lower preterm and cesarean birth rates than Medicaid
8 beneficiaries regionally (4.7 percent vs. 6.3 percent, and 20.4 percent vs. 34.2 percent). Data has
9 also shown that women with doula care have had 22 percent lower odds of preterm birth. Cost-
10 effectiveness analyses indicate potential savings associated with doula support which reimbursed
11 at an average of nine hundred eighty-six dollars (ranging from nine hundred twenty-nine dollars
12 to one thousand forty-seven dollars across states); now, therefore be it

13 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island hereby
14 celebrates March 22nd through March 28th, 2021, as "World Doula Week" and recognizes the
15 vital need and usefulness of perinatal doula services in order to provide medical assistance health
16 care for expectant mothers; and be it further

17 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
18 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to Doulas of Rhode Island, Open Circle Rhode
19 Island, and Rhode Island Doula Services.

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