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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2021

SENATE RESOLUTION

CELEBRATING BLACK MATERNAL HEALTH WEEK ON APRIL 11TH - 17TH, 2021, IN
THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

Introduced By: Senators Mack, and Quezada

Date Introduced: April 13, 2021

Referred To: Recommended for Immediate Consideration

1 WHEREAS, This year marks the fourth annual Black Maternal Health Week which was
2 founded and is led by the Black Mamas Matter Alliance. This year’s theme is “Claiming our
3 Power, Resilience, and Liberation”; and

4 WHEREAS, The campaign is observed across the country in order to raise awareness for
5 Black maternal health by enhancing the dialogue, increasing community involvement, and
6 promoting solutions, policies, and research; and

7 WHEREAS, National severe maternal morbidity (SMM) rates have nearly doubled over
8 the past decade, and the incidence of SMM was 166 percent higher for Black women than White
9 women from 2012 to 2015; and

10 WHEREAS, Currently, very little research exists that examines the root causes of the
11 racial disparities in maternal health in the United States; and

12 WHEREAS, In order to improve maternal health outcomes for Black women, systemic
13 change in maternal health care that ensures that the methods used to address implicit bias and
14 racism align with Black women’s needs, values, and preferences and address the ways in which
15 health care systems perpetuate inequality is essential; and

16 WHEREAS, The Associate Director of the Office of Research on Women's Health stated,
17 “Understanding the variations in experiences across socioecological domains between White and
18 minority women in the United States is important in developing more effective policies and
19 programs to reduce racial disparities in MMM [maternal morbidity and mortality] and, ultimately,

1 save mothers”; now, therefore be it

2 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island hereby celebrates Black
3 Maternal Health Week on April 11th - 17th, 2021, and urges all Rhode Islanders to advocate for
4 effective policies, and solutions to eliminate racism, bias, and inequities in maternal care; and be
5 it further

6 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
7 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to the Black Mamas Matter Alliance.

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