

2024 -- H 7262

LC004015

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2024

HOUSE RESOLUTION

PROCLAIMING JANUARY 23, 2024, TO BE "MATERNAL HEALTH AWARENESS DAY"
IN THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

Introduced By: Representatives Felix, Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Chippendale, Ackerman,
Kislak, Kennedy, Shallcross Smith, Ajello, and Boylan

Date Introduced: January 23, 2024

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, Maternal health is integral to the health of our State, communities and
2 families; and

3 WHEREAS, According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), more
4 than 80 percent of maternal deaths in the United States are preventable, and severe maternal
5 morbidity regarding pregnancy-related complications lead to major short or long-term health
6 consequences; and

7 WHEREAS, The rate of severe maternal morbidity among Rhode Island women
8 delivering in hospitals is lower than the national rate; however, the United States has the highest
9 rate among all wealthy nations; and

10 WHEREAS, Black women have the highest maternal mortality rate of any racial or
11 ethnic group and that number is growing due in great measure to health care becoming
12 unobtainable for these mothers and others in both rural and urban areas due to ongoing financial,
13 staffing, and policy changes which have caused an "Access in Crisis" across the country; and

14 WHEREAS, All pregnant individuals should have access to comprehensive and timely
15 prenatal services across the healthcare continuum, and reducing prenatal health inequities through
16 policy and systems change can help improve opportunities for every Rhode Islander; and

17 WHEREAS, To combat the maternal mortality rate, the State of Rhode Island has
18 engaged in ongoing efforts to systematically collect and comprehensively review maternal deaths
19 through the Pregnancy & Post-Partum Death Review Committee; and

1 WHEREAS, More than one in four Rhode Island pregnant people have delivered a baby
2 by cesarean delivery which is now the most common surgery performed in the United States, and
3 is often preventable; and

4 WHEREAS, Maternal substance use is increasing, with nearly one in four Rhode Island
5 pregnant people reporting substance use at any time, just before, during, or after their pregnancy;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, The State of Rhode Island is collaborating with community organizations,
8 hospital and health systems and clinical collaborations including the Perinatal Neonatal Quality
9 Collaborative (PNQC) of Rhode Island, the Alliance for Innovation on Maternal Health (AIM) of
10 Rhode Island, the Rhode Island Prematurity Task Force to reduce maternal mortality and severe
11 morbidity through collaboration and implementation of evidence-based initiatives; and

12 WHEREAS, The State of Rhode Island is committed to protecting the health and well-
13 being of pregnant people by continuing public awareness and understanding of health risks and
14 factors that contribute to maternal death, to improving public and professional awareness of the
15 issues related to maternal health and mortality, and promoting the various efforts to reduce
16 maternal mortality, morbidity, and disparities; now, therefore be it

17 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island hereby
18 proclaims January 23, 2024, to be "Maternal Health Awareness Day" in the State of Rhode
19 Island; and be it further

20 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
21 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to Stacy Paterno and Steve DeToy, Rhode Island
22 Medical Society.

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