

BY REPRESENTATIVE CARPENTER

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 To designate April 11-17, 2025, as Black Maternal Health Week in Louisiana.

3 WHEREAS, the wonders of pregnancy and childbirth can mark the beginning joys
4 of motherhood, paving the way to a lifetime of happiness and fulfillment; while many
5 women experience pregnancy and childbirth with few challenges, each year there are women
6 who needlessly encounter short-term, long-term, and serious complications, some of which
7 can tragically result in death; and

8 WHEREAS, compared to white women, black women are more likely to experience
9 preventable maternal death; in 2020, the maternal mortality rate for black women was more
10 than fifty-five deaths per one hundred thousand live births; according to the Centers for
11 Disease Control and Prevention, in 2020, eight hundred sixty-one women died of maternal
12 causes in the United States; in 2021, that number rose to one thousand two hundred five
13 women who died of maternal causes in this country, as reported by the National Center for
14 Health Statistics; this translates into more than thirty-three deaths per one hundred thousand
15 live births nationally; and

16 WHEREAS, Louisiana ranks highest among the fifty states for its maternal mortality
17 rate; according to the Louisiana Department of Health, black mothers are four times more
18 likely to die from a pregnancy-related cause than their white counterparts; the alarming rate
19 of black maternal mortality in this state can be attributed to several factors including implicit
20 and systemic bias, socioeconomic status, lack of access to quality health care, and
21 insufficient health coverage; and

1 WHEREAS, experiencing pregnancy and childbirth should not be a death sentence
2 for any woman because of her station in life; reducing the number of preventable maternal
3 deaths and addressing health disparities among women should be a top priority of this state;
4 it can be shown that improving health outcomes for pregnancy and childbirth not only
5 increases the survival rate of mothers but allows them to raise their own children thereby
6 benefitting the state as a whole; and

7 WHEREAS, it is essential to support every woman who experiences pregnancy and
8 childbirth; it is vital for healthcare providers to identify the signs of maternal complications
9 and diagnose them promptly and accurately, ensuring that the appropriate treatment is
10 rendered; and

11 WHEREAS, enhancing healthcare accessibility through the expansion of telehealth
12 services, midwives, and doulas to foster healthy pregnancies has yielded positive outcomes
13 in the community; and

14 WHEREAS, Black Maternal Health Week is dedicated to building awareness,
15 activism, and community and is recognized every year, from April 11-17, as part of the
16 observation of National Minority Health Month in April; and

17 WHEREAS, to increase awareness of maternal and infant health outcomes black
18 women endure, Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc., launched its initiative and essential
19 program, Project CRADLE Care, and has joined forces with many other organizations to
20 highlight and recognize Black Maternal Health Week.

21 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
22 designate April 11-17, 2025, as Black Maternal Health Week in Louisiana and does hereby
23 encourage all Louisianians to support initiatives that seek to improve maternal healthcare
24 especially for black mothers throughout the state.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HCR 14 Original

2025 Regular Session

Carpenter

Designates April 11-17, 2025, as Black Maternal Health Week in La.