

## House Resolution 447

By: Representatives Kendrick of the 93<sup>rd</sup>, Thomas of the 56<sup>th</sup>, Bennett of the 94<sup>th</sup>, Cannon of the 58<sup>th</sup>, Dickerson of the 113<sup>th</sup>, and others

## A RESOLUTION

1 Encouraging the General Assembly to fund a study of the causes of infant and maternal  
2 mortality in this state and to appoint a commission to propose solutions to the crisis; and for  
3 other purposes.

4 WHEREAS, there were 129,210 live births in Georgia in 2017, according to the provisional  
5 birth data report from the National Center for Health Statistics and that is down from 130,042  
6 births in 2016, and 131,404 births in 2015, and puts Georgia on the same footing as the rest  
7 of the country when it comes to declining birth numbers; and

8 WHEREAS, Georgia was ranked 43rd among states in a recent infant mortality rating from  
9 United Health Foundation; and

10 WHEREAS, the main causes of infant mortality are birth defects, such as congenital heart  
11 disease; preterm births, which have recently risen in Georgia; maternal factors; and  
12 sleep-related deaths; and

13 WHEREAS, Georgia mothers who have less than one year of spacing between delivery and  
14 the next pregnancy have a 12.3 percent preterm birth rate; and

15 WHEREAS, 46 of Georgia's 159 counties have labor and delivery units, with about 75  
16 hospitals in the state routinely delivering babies, according to the Georgia OB/GYN Society;  
17 and

18 WHEREAS, there are six significant county clusters of infant deaths in Georgia:

- 19 1. Fulton, Douglas, Cobb and Clayton
- 20 2. Bibb, Twiggs, Houston and Jones
- 21 3. Muscogee and Chattahoochee
- 22 4. Lowndes
- 23 5. Richmond, and

## 24 6. Chatham

25 WHEREAS, Georgia's maternal mortality rate is almost twice as high (35.5 per 100,000 in  
26 2011) as the U.S. high of 17.8 deaths per 100,000 live births in 2009.

27 WHEREAS, the main causes of maternal mortality in this state are:

28 **Postpartum Hemorrhage**

29 Excessive bleeding and loss of blood after childbirth. Mothers die from losing too much  
30 blood. Postpartum hemorrhage is responsible for approximately 27 percent of all  
31 maternal deaths;

32 **High Blood Pressure and Eclampsia**

33 Hypertensive disorders are responsible for 14 percent of pregnancy-related deaths;

34 **Infection**

35 Women can get infections from unsafe abortion, or an unsanitary delivery. About 11  
36 percent of maternal deaths are the result of an infection;

37 **Termination of Pregnancy**

38 An unsafe abortion is a leading cause of death among women who have an unintended  
39 pregnancy. Approximately 68,000 women die each year from unsafe abortions;

40 **Pulmonary Embolism**

41 Pulmonary embolisms can develop after delivery, and the risk is higher with a cesarean  
42 section. About 3 percent of maternal deaths are due to a pulmonary embolism;

43 **Parity**

44 Parity is the number of times a woman has been pregnant;

45 **Socioeconomic status**

46 Poor women in a lower socioeconomic group may have less education, a poor diet, and  
47 barriers to healthcare. Less education contributes to earlier or unplanned pregnancy; and

48 **Other Factors**

- 49 Low birth weight, preterm delivery
- 50 Hypertensive disorders of pregnancy
- 51 Postpartum infections
- 52 Obstructed labor
- 53 Blood clots
- 54 Anaemia

55 WHEREAS, complications from a c-section that could lead to maternal death include:

- 56 Infection
- 57 Blood clots

- 58 Anesthesia reactions
- 59 Blood loss
- 60 Injury to other organs during surgery

61 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
62 the members of this body encourage the State of Georgia to appropriate at least \$10 million  
63 to study the causes of infant and maternal mortality in this state.

64 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the House of Representatives is encouraged to appoint  
65 a commission to study the causes of and the solutions to the infant and maternal mortality  
66 crisis in this state.

67 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
68 and directed to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to the  
69 Office of the Governor, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the President of  
70 the Senate.