

House Resolution 561

By: Representatives Cannon of the 58th, Hugley of the 141st, Paris of the 142nd, Hutchinson of the 106th, Beverly of the 143rd, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending Jennie Joseph, Founder of Commonsense Childbirth Inc.; and
2 for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Jennie Joseph is recognized by her peers, community, and the citizens of this
4 state for her commitment to saving lives and introducing the JJ WAY model of care, which
5 has been proven to lower premature birth rates, maternal mortality and morbidity, and infant
6 mortality; and

7 WHEREAS, Jennie has introduced the JJ WAY model and best practices to maternal health
8 care providers in Georgia and around the United States while additionally training maternal
9 child health community health workers and improving outcomes; and

10 WHEREAS, Founder of the National Perinatal Task Force, Jennie Joseph has grown a work
11 force and national Perinatal Safe Spots where childbearing Black people, who have the
12 highest rates of maternal and infant morbidity and death, have a safe place to receive care,
13 doula services, and maternal child community health worker services; and

14 WHEREAS, pre-term births cost society at least \$26 billion or \$51,600.00 per premature
15 baby per year, including money spent on medical care for short- and long-term health

16 conditions, educational expenditures, and lost productivity for families of those babies who
17 survive; and

18 WHEREAS, women of color are more likely to experience discriminatory and inappropriate
19 treatment and poorer quality of care; and

20 WHEREAS, Black mothers are three to four times more likely to die from pregnancy-related
21 causes than their White counterparts; and

22 WHEREAS, there is a shortage of Black healthcare providers and the Black infant mortality
23 rate is more than twice as high as it is for White infants; and

24 WHEREAS, studies suggest that the mortality disparity decreases between Black infants and
25 White infants when Black infants are treated by Black healthcare providers and that racism,
26 implicit bias, and lack of cultural competency play a major role in infant and maternal
27 morbidity and mortality; and

28 WHEREAS, in response to the Black maternal and child health crisis in the United States,
29 calling a State of Emergency for Black birthing people and their families is urgent for
30 legislators to implement and support legislation needed to diversify the maternal child
31 workforce; and

32 WHEREAS, Jennie Joseph has created curriculum and a work force pertaining to healthcare,
33 proven healthcare models, and the promotion of good healthcare policies with a view toward
34 increasing equity, diversity, and access for all; and

35 WHEREAS, it is vital that birthing mothers and their families have access to perinatal care
36 teams incorporating safe maternal healthcare providers, which include community healthcare
37 workers and community midwives; and

38 WHEREAS, there is an urgent need to recruit, train, and deploy a diverse and
39 interdisciplinary maternal child healthcare workforce so that all birthing mothers, their
40 families, and infants receive unrestricted access to equitable maternity care and support
41 which is essential for improved health outcomes; and

42 WHEREAS, Jennie Joseph is committed and understands the importance of recruiting
43 maternal child community-based healthcare providers who are from racially, ethnically, and
44 linguistically diverse backgrounds with experience practicing in racially and ethnically
45 diverse communities or providers who have undergone training on implicit bias and racism
46 and who understand the impact of cultural congruence and cultural safety in service delivery;
47 and

48 WHEREAS, Jennie Joseph has invested in the training and expansion of a community-based
49 perinatal healthcare workforce beginning with recruiting, training, and reimbursing maternal
50 health and community healthcare workers; and

51 WHEREAS, fully-trained community healthcare workers cover all aspects of the
52 childbearing cycle, including pregnancy, birth and postpartum, and reproductive health; and

53 WHEREAS, such fully-trained community healthcare workers effectively teach across the
54 life-course with evidence-based information, provide wrap-around support, and health
55 navigation, which includes creating liaisons and trusted relationships with other healthcare
56 providers and agencies; and

57 WHEREAS, community healthcare workers and community midwives create a readily
58 achievable, economically viable, and sustainable solution that fully embraces "The Triple
59 Aim" of better care, better health, and reduced costs.

60 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
61 the members of this body recognize and commend Jennie Joseph for her dedication to
62 childbearing people and their families.

63 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
64 and directed to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to
65 Jennie Joseph.