

**SENATE . . . . . No. 1334**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

***Rebecca L. Rausch***

*To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:*

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

**An Act to reduce racial disparities in maternal health.**

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
<i>Rebecca L. Rausch</i>	<i>Norfolk, Bristol and Middlesex</i>	
<i>Kay Khan</i>	<i>11th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/25/2019</i>
<i>Harriette L. Chandler</i>	<i>First Worcester</i>	<i>1/25/2019</i>
<i>Lori A. Ehrlich</i>	<i>8th Essex</i>	<i>1/24/2019</i>
<i>Maria Duaine Robinson</i>	<i>6th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/25/2019</i>
<i>Carmine Lawrence Gentile</i>	<i>13th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/21/2019</i>
<i>Jason M. Lewis</i>	<i>Fifth Middlesex</i>	<i>1/24/2019</i>
<i>Jack Patrick Lewis</i>	<i>7th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/24/2019</i>
<i>José F. Tosado</i>	<i>9th Hampden</i>	<i>1/25/2019</i>
<i>Mary S. Keefe</i>	<i>15th Worcester</i>	<i>1/28/2019</i>
<i>Walter F. Timilty</i>	<i>Norfolk, Bristol and Plymouth</i>	<i>1/29/2019</i>
<i>Julian Cyr</i>	<i>Cape and Islands</i>	<i>1/29/2019</i>
<i>Thomas M. Stanley</i>	<i>9th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/29/2019</i>
<i>William N. Brownsberger</i>	<i>Second Suffolk and Middlesex</i>	<i>1/29/2019</i>
<i>Brian W. Murray</i>	<i>10th Worcester</i>	<i>1/29/2019</i>
<i>Daniel J. Hunt</i>	<i>13th Suffolk</i>	<i>1/30/2019</i>
<i>Jennifer E. Benson</i>	<i>37th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/31/2019</i>
<i>Sal N. DiDomenico</i>	<i>Middlesex and Suffolk</i>	<i>1/31/2019</i>

<i>Bruce E. Tarr</i>	<i>First Essex and Middlesex</i>	<i>1/31/2019</i>
<i>Michael O. Moore</i>	<i>Second Worcester</i>	<i>2/1/2019</i>
<i>David Henry Argosky LeBoeuf</i>	<i>17th Worcester</i>	<i>2/1/2019</i>
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>	<i>2/8/2019</i>

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By Ms. Rausch, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1334) of Rebecca L. Rausch, Kay Khan, Harriette L. Chandler, Lori A. Ehrlich and other members of the General Court for legislation to reduce racial disparities in maternal health. Public Health.

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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**In the One Hundred and Ninety-First General Court  
(2019-2020)**  
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An Act to reduce racial disparities in maternal health.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

1 SECTION 1. Subsection (a) of Section 16AA of Chapter 6A of the General Laws, as  
2 created by Section 4 of Chapter 154 of the Acts of 2018, is hereby amended by adding the  
3 following:-

4 “Maternal death,” the death of a person while they are pregnant or within one year of  
5 when a person ceases to be pregnant.

6 SECTION 2. Section 16AA of Chapter 6A, as so appearing, is hereby amended by  
7 adding the following:-

8 (g) There is hereby established a special commission for the purpose of making an  
9 investigation and study relative to reducing racial disparities in maternal death.

10 The commission shall consist of 12 members: the director of the office of health equity,  
11 who shall serve as chairperson; a member of the Black and Latino Legislative Caucus or a

12 designee; the commissioner of the department of public health, or a designee; a member of the  
13 maternal mortality and review committee; three medical professionals belonging to specialties  
14 which focus on childbirth or maternal health, including but not limited OBGYNs, nurse  
15 midwives, doulas, and midwives; a member of a medical organization focused on improving  
16 maternal health outcomes, a member of an organization committed to racial justice; and a  
17 member of an organization committed to reducing health inequities in communities of color. The  
18 governor shall appoint 2 members: one of whom shall be an immediate family member of a  
19 victim of maternal death, and one of whom shall be an expert in reducing racial disparities in  
20 maternal death. The chairperson may appoint up to 3 additional commission members to fulfill  
21 the purpose of the commission.

22 Said commission shall provide guidance and advice to the governor, the general court and  
23 the secretary of health and human services relative to reducing racial disparities in maternal  
24 death including, but not limited to: (i) an assessment of current research on the subject and  
25 whether there exist evidence-based, best or promising practices on the reduction of racial  
26 disparities in maternal death, including but not limited to risk factors related to health care access  
27 before, during, and after pregnancy, the assessment and management of risk factors associated  
28 with maternal death, documentation and management of chronic and concurrent medical  
29 conditions, and the cultural competency of health care providers; (ii) the extent to which implicit  
30 bias, racism, or discrimination affect the prevalence of maternal death in communities of color  
31 and potential solutions; (iii) provision of assistance to the department of public health, other state  
32 agencies and organizations relative to applications for federal funding to support efforts  
33 consistent with the mission and purpose of the commission; (iii) an examination of what data is  
34 currently collected by the commonwealth regarding maternal death and whether additional

35 authorization for data is needed and (iv) any other matters that the commission considers relevant  
36 to the fulfillment of its mission and purpose.

37           The special commission may conduct public hearings, forums or meetings to gather  
38 information and to raise awareness of maternal death, including the sponsorship of or  
39 participation in statewide or regional conferences.