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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 26 Session of  
2025

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INTRODUCED BY CEPHAS, CURRY, MAYES, HOHENSTEIN, ISAACSON,  
FREEMAN, VITALI, HILL-EVANS, GIRAL, WAXMAN, T. DAVIS,  
DONAHUE, KHAN, KENYATTA, SANCHEZ, SCHLOSSBERG, CEPEDA-  
FREYTIZ, DEASY, McNEILL, HANBIDGE, CERRATO, NEILSON, HADDOCK,  
STEELE, VENKAT, HOWARD, MERSKI, GALLAGHER AND PROBST,  
JANUARY 27, 2025

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH, JANUARY 27, 2025

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A RESOLUTION

1 Designating January 23, 2025, as "Maternal Health Awareness Day"  
2 in Pennsylvania to recognize all the women who die from  
3 complications of pregnancy or childbirth.

4 WHEREAS, Women who die during pregnancy, or within one year  
5 after giving birth, from any cause related to or aggravated by  
6 the pregnancy are considered to have died a pregnancy-related  
7 death; and

8 WHEREAS, The number of pregnancy-related deaths in the United  
9 States has continued to rise, despite recent advances in medical  
10 science and technology; and

11 WHEREAS, In 1986, the Centers for Disease Control and  
12 Prevention implemented a Pregnancy Mortality Surveillance  
13 System, a national surveillance system, to obtain information  
14 about the frequency and causes of pregnancy-related death in the  
15 United States; and

16 WHEREAS, Despite declines in the maternal mortality rate in

1 other parts of the world, the data collected under the Pregnancy  
2 Mortality Surveillance System has shown a steady increase in the  
3 maternal mortality rate in the United States, from a low of 7.2  
4 deaths per 100,000 live births in 1987 to 15.9, 17.3 and 18  
5 deaths per 100,000 in 2012, 2013 and 2014, respectively; and

6 WHEREAS, The national Pregnancy Mortality Surveillance System  
7 indicates that the rate of pregnancy-related deaths varies by  
8 race, ethnicity and age, with Black women having the highest  
9 mortality rate at more than 40 deaths per every 100,000 live  
10 births; and

11 WHEREAS, The most recent data available on the maternal  
12 mortality rate in Pennsylvania indicates an overall pregnancy-  
13 associated mortality ratio of 82 deaths per 100,000 live births;  
14 and

15 WHEREAS, Black women in Pennsylvania are two times more  
16 likely to experience pregnancy-related mortality with a maternal  
17 mortality rate of 163 deaths per 100,000 live births and are two  
18 to three times more likely to experience pregnancy-related  
19 mortality nationally; and

20 WHEREAS, The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
21 recommends maternal deaths be investigated through state-based  
22 reviews to identify the causes of pregnancy-related deaths and  
23 recommend ways to decrease maternal death rates; and

24 WHEREAS, The General Assembly approved and the Governor  
25 signed Act 24 of 2018, known as the Maternal Mortality Review  
26 Act, establishing the multidisciplinary Maternal Mortality  
27 Review Committee, as a first step to address the serious issue  
28 of increasing maternal mortality across this Commonwealth; and

29 WHEREAS, The committee is tasked with examining pregnancy-  
30 related deaths, developing prevention recommendations and

1 increasing public and professional awareness of the incidence of  
2 pregnancy-related deaths and strategies to prevent maternal  
3 deaths in this Commonwealth; and

4 WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania Black Maternal Health Caucus was  
5 formed in October 2023 to address the disturbing trends of Black  
6 maternal mortality and morbidity in this Commonwealth; and

7 WHEREAS, In order to improve public and professional  
8 awareness and promote the various promising initiatives to  
9 reduce the maternal mortality rate, it is both reasonable and  
10 appropriate to designate a day as "Maternal Health Awareness  
11 Day" in this Commonwealth and invite community members and  
12 health care professionals to participate in appropriate  
13 activities relating to maternal health, safety and mortality;  
14 therefore be it

15 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate January  
16 23, 2025, as "Maternal Health Awareness Day" in Pennsylvania to  
17 recognize all the women who die from complications of pregnancy  
18 or childbirth.