

1 A RESOLUTION declaring March 2023 to be Kentucky Maternal and Infant
2 Mortality and Disparities Awareness Month.

3 WHEREAS, economic inequality, structural racism, and public health failures have
4 resulted in higher illness and death rates for black people, especially when it comes to
5 maternal and reproductive health; and

6 WHEREAS, Kentucky is suffering a maternal mortality crisis as a result of
7 underinvesting and underfunding in health care for women, particularly in black
8 communities, leading to a precipitous increase in maternal mortality rates and racial
9 disparities; and

10 WHEREAS, the maternal mortality rate is defined as the number of women who die
11 during pregnancy, child delivery, or within 42 days of giving birth; and the national
12 maternal mortality rate is 20.1 per 100,000 live births and the Kentucky maternal mortality
13 rate is nearly double the national average at a staggering rate of 37.7 per 100,000 live
14 births; and

15 WHEREAS, data shows a racial disparity exists among the maternal mortality rate in
16 black women and white women in the United States, as the maternal mortality rate for
17 black women is 55.3 per 100,000 compared to white women who have a maternal
18 mortality rate of 19.1 per 100,000 live births; and

19 WHEREAS, black women are estimated to be three to four times more likely to die
20 from a pregnancy-related complication than white women; and

21 WHEREAS, the incidence of pregnancy-related mortality of black women in some
22 parts of the United States is close to that of women in some developing countries; and

23 WHEREAS, maternal deaths appear to be higher among black women than white
24 women in Kentucky; and

25 WHEREAS, it is estimated more than 60 percent of pregnancy-related deaths are
26 preventable; and

27 WHEREAS, in the United States and Kentucky, there are disparities between black

1 and white infant mortality rates; and

2 WHEREAS, the national infant mortality rate for white infants is 5.4 per 1,000 live
3 births and the national infant mortality rate for black infants is more than double at an
4 alarming rate of 10.6 per 1,000 live births; and

5 WHEREAS, the infant mortality rate in Kentucky is 6.3 per 1,000 live births, the
6 infant mortality rate for black infants in Kentucky is 9.9 per 1,000 live births, and the
7 infant mortality rate for white infants in Kentucky is 6 per 1,000 live births; and

8 WHEREAS, the leading cause of infant mortality in Kentucky is prematurity-related
9 conditions followed by sudden unexpected infant death syndrome; and

10 WHEREAS, black infants are 2.3 times more likely to die from complications related
11 to low birthweight compared to white infants; and black mothers are 2.5 times more likely
12 than white mothers to receive late or no prenatal care; and

13 WHEREAS, in the United States, the rate of preterm birth among black women is
14 36 percent higher than the rate of preterm birth among white women; and

15 WHEREAS, to reduce health disparities, policymakers should improve maternal
16 health outcomes and lower infant mortality by providing equity in care to all people in
17 Kentucky, including helping patients manage chronic conditions such as diabetes, heart
18 disease, high blood pressure, and obesity; identifying and addressing unconscious bias in
19 healthcare; and ensuring all pregnant women have adequate access to perinatal and
20 postpartum care;

21 NOW, THEREFORE,

22 ***Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the General Assembly of the***
23 ***Commonwealth of Kentucky:***

24 ➔Section 1. The House of Representatives does hereby designate the month of
25 March 2023 to be Kentucky Maternal and Infant Mortality and Disparities Awareness
26 Month.