

1 A RESOLUTION recognizing April 11 to 17, 2024, as Black Maternal Health  
2 Week in Kentucky.

3 WHEREAS, the maternal mortality rate is defined as the number of women who die  
4 during pregnancy, child delivery, or within 42 days of giving birth from a cause related to  
5 pregnancy; and

6 WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported that in 2021  
7 the maternal mortality rate for all women was 32.9 per 100,000 births, 69.9 per 100,000  
8 births for Black women, and 26.6 per 100,000 births for white women; and

9 WHEREAS, risk factors for maternal mortality include depression, obesity, tobacco  
10 or substance abuse, and other social measures such as limited access to transportation or  
11 health care services; and

12 WHEREAS, more than 80 percent of pregnancy-related complications are  
13 preventable, and Black women make up more than 31 percent of women with pregnancy-  
14 related complications; and

15 WHEREAS, in 2021 the maternal mortality rate for all women in Kentucky was  
16 38.4 per 100,000 births. While 2021 rates by race are not available for Kentucky, in 2018  
17 the maternal mortality rate for Black women was 40.2 per 100,000 births, three times  
18 higher than the maternal mortality rate of 13 per 100,000 births for white women; and

19 WHEREAS, the Black Mamas Matter Alliance is dedicated to raising awareness,  
20 inspiring activism, and building community support for the policies and issues  
21 surrounding the health and rights of Black mothers and their families; and

22 WHEREAS, April is National Minority Health Month and April 11, 2024, is the  
23 International Day for Maternal Health and Rights;

24 NOW, THEREFORE,

25 ***Be it resolved by the Senate of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of***  
26 ***Kentucky:***

27 ➔Section 1. The members of the Senate hereby recognize April 11 to 17, 2024, as

1 Black Maternal Health Week in Kentucky in order to promote awareness of and advocate  
2 for eliminating the high rates of Black maternal mortality.

3       ➔Section 2. The clerk of the Senate is directed to transmit a copy of this  
4 Resolution to Senator Gerald Neal.