

1 A RESOLUTION recognizing January 23, 2024, as Maternal Mental Health
2 Awareness Day.

3 WHEREAS, the United States ranks highest among industrialized nations in
4 maternal mortality; and

5 WHEREAS, more than 700 women die each year in the United States as a result of
6 pregnancy or delivery complications, and more than one-half of these deaths are
7 preventable; and

8 WHEREAS, while the national maternal mortality rate continues to rise, Kentucky
9 continues to work diligently and successfully to reverse this alarming trend; and

10 WHEREAS, a woman's maternal mental health condition can be a factor in
11 maternal mortality; and

12 WHEREAS, improved screening alone can reduce the severity of postpartum
13 depression; and

14 WHEREAS, chronic health conditions increase the risk of pregnancy
15 complications, adverse birth outcomes, and pregnancy-related mortality because the
16 physical demands that pregnancy places on the body's systems can exacerbate existing
17 health conditions; and

18 WHEREAS, more needs to be done to narrow racial and ethnic disparities,
19 especially with black women whose pregnancy-related mortality ratio was four to six
20 times greater than the mortality ratios for women of other racial or ethnic groups; and

21 WHEREAS, maximizing health prior to pregnancy, including but not limited to
22 preventing smoking, improving fitness, reducing sexually transmitted diseases, and
23 promoting positive relationships, can improve maternal mental health; and

24 WHEREAS, addressing the postpartum needs of women through such efforts as
25 postpartum visits, breastfeeding support, and screening for postpartum depression can
26 help improve maternal mental health; and

27 WHEREAS, the Kentucky General Assembly seeks to bring awareness to maternal

1 mental health and continue its work to provide positive outcomes for both the mother and
2 the infant;

3 NOW, THEREFORE,

4 *Be it resolved by the Senate of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of*
5 *Kentucky:*

6 ➔Section 1. The members of the Senate hereby recognize January 23, 2024, as
7 Maternal Mental Health Awareness Day.