

1 HJR118
2 206571-1
3 By Representative Hall
4 RFD:
5 First Read: 12-MAR-20

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8 DESIGNATING MAY 10, 2020, AS MATERNAL HEALTH
9 AWARENESS DAY.

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11 WHEREAS, every year in the United States,
12 approximately 700 women die as a result of complications
13 related to pregnancy and childbirth; and

14 WHEREAS, the United States is the only developed
15 country whose maternal mortality rate has increased over the
16 last several decades; and

17 WHEREAS, more than 60 percent of maternal deaths in
18 the United States are preventable; and

19 WHEREAS, significant disparities in maternal health
20 persist across income and education levels, including that (1)
21 Black women are 3-4 times more likely to die from a
22 pregnancy-related cause as are White women; (2) Among all
23 women with a college education or higher, the ratio for Black
24 women is 5.2 times higher than that of White women; (3) Women
25 who live in rural areas have a greater likelihood of severe
26 maternal morbidity and mortality compared to women who live in
27 urban areas; and

1 WHEREAS, Alabama's maternal mortality rate ranks
2 48th in the United States and has increased 21 percent since
3 2016; and

4 WHEREAS, 41 Alabama women died from
5 pregnancy-related complications in 2017; and

6 WHEREAS, in Alabama, 22 more Black women die for
7 every pregnancy-related death of a White woman; and

8 WHEREAS, more than 40 states have designated
9 Maternal Mortality Review Committees to review maternal deaths
10 and identify opportunities for prevention; and

11 WHEREAS, an investment must be made in Alabama to
12 fund a state Maternal Mortality Review Committee to improve
13 data collection around maternal outcomes and implement
14 positive changes in health systems and improve health for
15 women, infants and families; and

16 WHEREAS, "Mother's Day" was nationally recognized in
17 1914 and is designated as the second Sunday of May each year
18 as a public expression of love and reverence for all mothers;
19 now therefore,

20 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
21 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That we designate May 10, 2020, as
22 "Maternal Health Awareness Day" in the State of Alabama, in
23 order to raise public and professional awareness about
24 important maternal health, safety, and mortality issues and
25 encourage the development of new programs and initiatives
26 designed to positively impact maternal health and mortality.