

Senate Resolution 584

By: Senators Jackson of the 41st, Merritt of the 9th, Au of the 48th, Butler of the 55th, Brass of the 28th and others

ADOPTED SENATE

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing May 4, 2022, as Maternal Mental Health Day at the Capitol; and for other
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, maternal mental health is a critically important concern for women, their
4 children and partners, and communities, and it must be a primary concern for the health and
5 safety of families in Georgia; and

6 WHEREAS, perinatal mood and anxiety disorders currently cause depression, anxiety,
7 obsessive compulsive thoughts, and psychosis in one out of seven Georgian mothers, and
8 only 10 percent of women with these disorders receive treatment; and

9 WHEREAS, Georgia is experiencing a maternal health crisis, ranking 50th in the nation for
10 maternal mortality; and

11 WHEREAS, perinatal mood and anxiety disorders are the most common complication
12 following childbirth; and

13 WHEREAS, research has shown that untreated maternal depression and anxiety during
14 pregnancy or postpartum negatively affects birth outcomes and infant development,
15 including infant mental health and brain development; and

16 WHEREAS, perinatal mood and anxiety disorders are highly treatable through assessment
17 screenings, therapeutic interventions, community based support services, and medication;
18 and

19 WHEREAS, COVID-19 has further exacerbated mental health disorders for expectant and
20 postpartum families, including increases in anxiety, depression, and suicidal thoughts; and

21 WHEREAS, the Postpartum Support International Georgia Chapter (www.psig.org) offers
22 free support groups, training, and access to care for Georgia families experiencing these
23 mental health challenges; and

24 WHEREAS, the Georgia Department of Public Health has prioritized maternal mental health;
25 and

26 WHEREAS, increased awareness, education, and resources for screening, assessment,
27 referral, and treatment of perinatal mood and anxiety disorders should be available to all
28 women and their providers throughout the State of Georgia.

29 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
30 join maternal mental health support programs such as the Postpartum Support International
31 Georgia Chapter in the belief that public awareness regarding maternal mental health is a
32 public health priority and recognize May 4, 2022, as Maternal Mental Health Day at the
33 Capitol.

34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
35 to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the public and the
36 press.