

1           A RESOLUTION designating January 23rd of each year as Maternal Health  
2 Awareness Day in Kentucky.

3           WHEREAS, the number of pregnancy-related deaths in the United States has  
4 continued to rise, despite recent advances in medical science and technology; and

5           WHEREAS, in 1986, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention implemented  
6 a Pregnancy Mortality Surveillance System to obtain information about the frequency and  
7 causes of pregnancy-related death in the United States; and

8           WHEREAS, despite declines in maternal deaths in other parts of the world, the data  
9 collected under the Pregnancy Mortality Surveillance System has shown a steady increase  
10 in the number of reported pregnancy-related deaths in the United States, from a low of 7.2  
11 deaths per 100,000 live births in 1987 to a high of 18 deaths per 100,000 live births in  
12 2014; and

13           WHEREAS, in 2016, there were approximately 16.9 pregnancy-related deaths per  
14 every 100,000 live births in the United States; and

15           WHEREAS, the Pregnancy Mortality Surveillance System indicates that the highest  
16 mortality rate is among black women, who suffered an average of 42.4 deaths per every  
17 100,000 live births in 2016; and

18           WHEREAS, from 2013 until 2017, the average pregnancy-related mortality rate in  
19 Kentucky was 32.3 deaths per 100,000 births; and

20           WHEREAS, a number of initiatives have been developed over the years to address  
21 the issue of pregnancy-related mortality, with some of the more recent initiatives showing  
22 promise; and

23           WHEREAS, these initiatives include the Safe Motherhood Initiative, the  
24 Postpartum Hemorrhage Project, the "Stop, Look, and Listen!" educational maternal  
25 safety campaign, and the Alliance for Innovation on Maternal Health (AIM); and

26           WHEREAS, Kentucky's section of the Association of Women's Health, Obstetric,  
27 and Neonatal Nurses, members of the Kentucky Section of the American College of

1 Obstetricians and Gynecologists, and members of the Kentucky Obstetrical and  
2 Gynecological Society have each indicated their full support for these initiatives; and

3 WHEREAS, the AIM program, which is being implemented in Kentucky, is a four-  
4 year national program that is being funded through a cooperative agreement between the  
5 Kentucky Perinatal Quality Collaborative and the Health Resources and Services  
6 Administration; and

7 WHEREAS, the AIM program aligns national, state, and local efforts to improve  
8 maternal health and safety; develops maternal safety bundles; and promotes the  
9 implementation of these bundles in all birth facilities; and

10 WHEREAS, in order to improve public and professional awareness of the issues  
11 related to maternal health and mortality, and promote the various promising initiatives  
12 that are being undertaken to reduce maternal mortality, it is both reasonable and  
13 appropriate to establish Maternal Health Awareness Day in the Commonwealth;

14 NOW, THEREFORE,

15 ***Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the General Assembly of the***  
16 ***Commonwealth of Kentucky:***

17 ➔Section 1. The House of Representatives hereby designates January 23rd of  
18 each year Maternal Health Awareness Day in Kentucky.

19 ➔Section 2. The Clerk of the House of Representatives is directed to transmit a  
20 copy of this Resolution to Representative Joni L. Jenkins.