

2024 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 188

BY REPRESENTATIVE MILLER

A RESOLUTION

To designate Wednesday, May 1, 2024, as Maternal Mental Health Awareness Day in the state of Louisiana.

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Health and Human Services Department, Office of Women's Health reports that one in eight women experiences postpartum depression in the year following birth; and

WHEREAS, approximately seventy-five percent of women experience maternal mental health conditions, which include but are not limited to perinatal and postpartum depression, anxiety, and birth-related post traumatic stress disorder; and

WHEREAS, many of those maternal mental health conditions go undiagnosed and untreated; and

WHEREAS, death by suicide is one of the leading causes of maternal mortality and accounts for approximately twenty percent of postpartum deaths; and

WHEREAS, many maternal deaths are preventable with diagnosis and treatment; and

WHEREAS, maternal death does not only impact families negatively, it also impacts the economy and the state; and

WHEREAS, according to America's Health Rankings, twelve percent of women in this state reported an experience with postpartum depression after childbirth; and

WHEREAS, according to the Birth Injury Lawyers Group, Louisiana ranks forty-fourth for maternal mortality; and

WHEREAS, this state has consistently been ranked among the top states for maternal mortality; and

WHEREAS, to combat these statistics, Woman's Hospital is opening a perinatal mental health unit in September 2024; and

WHEREAS, the perinatal mental health unit will be one of four in the United States and the only one in Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, the perinatal mental health unit intends to serve women in this state throughout their pregnancies and up to one year postpartum, providing them with critical health services.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby designate Wednesday, May 1, 2024, as Maternal Mental Health Awareness Day in Louisiana and recognize the commitment of Woman's Hospital to provide mental health services to pregnant and postpartum women in Louisiana.

BE IF FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the chief executive officer of Woman's Hospital.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES