
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 27 Session of
2019

INTRODUCED BY MACKENZIE, BIZZARRO, BROWN, BURNS, CALTAGIRONE,
CONKLIN, DIGIROLAMO, FREEMAN, HILL-EVANS, IRVIN, JOZWIAK,
KIRKLAND, KORTZ, MARKOSEK, MILLARD, MURT, NEILSON,
OBERLANDER, PASHINSKI, READSHAW, RYAN, SCHLOSSBERG, SONNEY
AND THOMAS, JANUARY 11, 2019

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
JANUARY 11, 2019

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating January 23, 2019, as "Maternal Health Awareness Day"
2 in Pennsylvania to recognize all the women who die from
3 complications of pregnancy or childbirth.

4 WHEREAS, Women who die during pregnancy, or within one year
5 after giving birth, from any cause related to or aggravated by
6 the pregnancy are considered to have died a pregnancy-related
7 death; and

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

11 WHEREAS, In 1986, the Federal Centers for Disease Control and
12 Prevention implemented a Pregnancy Mortality Surveillance System
13 to obtain information about the frequency and causes of
14 pregnancy-related death in the United States; and

15 WHEREAS, Despite declines in the maternal mortality rate in
16 other parts of the world, the data collected under the Pregnancy

1 Mortality Surveillance System has shown a steady increase in the
2 maternal mortality rate in the United States, from a low of 7.2
3 deaths per 100,000 live births in 1987 to 15.9, 17.3 and 18
4 deaths per 100,000 in 2012, 2013 and 2014, respectively; and

5 WHEREAS, The Pregnancy Mortality Surveillance System
6 indicates that the rate of pregnancy-related deaths varies by
7 race, ethnicity and age, with African-American women having the
8 highest mortality rate at 40 deaths per every 100,000 live
9 births; and

10 WHEREAS, The most recent data available on the maternal
11 mortality rate in Pennsylvania indicates that from 2012 to 2016,
12 there was an increase in maternal deaths with 11.4 deaths per
13 100,000 live births; and

14 WHEREAS, For African-American women in Pennsylvania, the
15 maternal mortality rate was 27.2 deaths per 100,000 live births;
16 and

17 WHEREAS, The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
18 recommends maternal deaths be investigated through state-based
19 reviews to identify the causes of pregnancy-related deaths and
20 recommend ways to decrease maternal death rates; and

21 WHEREAS, The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of
22 Pennsylvania approved and the Governor signed act 24 of 2018,
23 known as the Maternal Mortality Review Act, establishing the
24 multidisciplinary Maternal Mortality Review Committee, as a
25 first step to address the serious issue of increasing maternal
26 mortality across the Commonwealth; and

27 WHEREAS, The committee is tasked with examining pregnancy-
28 related deaths, developing prevention recommendations and
29 increasing public and professional awareness of the incidence of
30 pregnancy-related deaths and strategies to prevent maternal

1 deaths in this Commonwealth; and

2 WHEREAS, In order to improve public and professional
3 awareness and promote the various promising initiatives to
4 reduce the maternal mortality rate, it is both reasonable and
5 appropriate to designate a day as "Maternal Health Awareness
6 Day" in this Commonwealth and invite community members and
7 health care professionals to participate in appropriate
8 activities relating to maternal health, safety and mortality;
9 therefore be it

10 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate January
11 23, 2019, as "Maternal Health Awareness Day" in Pennsylvania to
12 recognize all the women who die from complications of pregnancy
13 or childbirth.