LRB-2775/1 CMH:amn

2021 ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION 43

April 20, 2021 - Introduced by Representatives Stubbs, Cabral-Guevara, Drake, L. Myers, Haywood, Bowen, Baldeh, Hong, Cabrera, Hesselbein, Neubauer, Sinicki, Andraca, Conley, Shankland, Snodgrass, S. Rodriguez, Shelton, Emerson, Brostoff, Hebl and Anderson, cosponsored by Senators Johnson, L. Taylor, Roys, Erpenbach, Carpenter and Wirch. Referred to Committee on Rules.

AUTHORS SUBJECT TO CHANGE

1	Relating to: dedicating the second week of April to Black maternal health, formally
2	known as Black Maternal Health Week, to acknowledge racial disparities
3	among Black mothers and infants.
4	Whereas, racism is a public health crisis that disproportionately affects Black
5	pregnant people and Black infants; and
6	Whereas, Black infants have two times the infant mortality rate as
7	non-Hispanic whites, and are nearly four times more likely to die from complications
8	as non-Hispanic whites; and
9	Whereas, Black mothers are four times more likely to die from pregnancy as
10	non-Hispanic white mothers, regardless of factors that are associated with greater
11	socioeconomic class, such as higher education; and
12	Whereas, systematic racism, which is prevalent in many health-care systems,
13	prevents Black pregnant people and Black infants from receiving proper care; and

Whereas, addressing systematic racism in health care and investing in social determinants of health that improve maternal health outcomes, such as doula care, may improve racial disparities in Black maternal and infant mortality; and Whereas, in addition to investing in doula care, adequate health insurance.

Whereas, in addition to investing in doula care, adequate health insurance, infant feeding, and mental health, and providing care to incarcerated pregnant people, dedicating a week to commemorate improving Black maternal health care may bring additional awareness; and

Whereas, a Black maternal health week from April 11, 2021, to April 17, 2021, is an appropriate way to begin bringing awareness to an issue that directly affects Black pregnant people and Black infants in our own communities; and

Whereas, a Black maternal health week would exemplify the dedication of our elected officials, as well as the dedication of all Wisconsinites, to rectifying the disparities of Black pregnant people and Black infants in the health-care system; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the assembly, the senate concurring, That members of the Wisconsin State Legislature hereby proclaim April 11 to 17 as 2021 Black Maternal Health Week in Wisconsin.

18 (END)