
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. **641** Session of
2019

INTRODUCED BY MACKENZIE, BERNSTINE, BURNS, CONKLIN, SCHLEGEL
CULVER, DONATUCCI, HEFFLEY, HENNESSEY, HILL-EVANS,
INNAMORATO, KINSEY, KORTZ, LONGIETTI, McNEILL, MURT,
OBERLANDER, PICKETT, RAPP, READSHAW, RYAN, SCHLOSSBERG,
SCHMITT, SONNEY, YOUNGBLOOD AND JOZWIAK, DECEMBER 16, 2019

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH, DECEMBER 16, 2019

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating January 23, 2020, 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 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
17 Mortality Surveillance System has shown a steady increase in the

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

9 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate January
10 23, 2020, as "Maternal Health Awareness Day" in Pennsylvania to
11 recognize all the women who die from complications of pregnancy
12 or childbirth.