
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 226 Session of
2024

INTRODUCED BY CAPPELLETTI, SAVAL, TARTAGLIONE, KEARNEY, HUGHES,
SCHWANK, FONTANA, HAYWOOD, COMMITTA AND BROWN,
JANUARY 29, 2024

REFERRED TO RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS, JANUARY 29, 2024

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating January 23, 2024, as "Maternal Health Awareness Day"
2 in Pennsylvania to recognize all the women and birthing
3 people who die from complications of pregnancy or childbirth.

4 WHEREAS, Women and birthing people who die during pregnancy,
5 or within one year after giving birth, from any cause related to
6 or aggravated by the pregnancy are considered to have died a
7 pregnancy-related 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
13 System, a national surveillance system to obtain information
14 about the frequency and causes of pregnancy-related death in the
15 United States; and

16 WHEREAS, Despite declines in the maternal mortality rate in
17 other parts of the world, the data collected under the Pregnancy
18 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 national Pregnancy Mortality Surveillance System
5 indicates that the rate of pregnancy-related deaths varies by
6 race, ethnicity and age, with Black women and birthing people
7 having the highest mortality rate at more than 40 deaths per
8 every 100,000 live births; and

9 WHEREAS, The most recent data available on the maternal
10 mortality rate in Pennsylvania indicates an overall pregnancy-
11 associated mortality ratio of 82 deaths per 100,000 live births;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, Black women and birthing people in Pennsylvania are
14 two times more likely to experience pregnancy-related mortality
15 with a maternal mortality rate of 163 deaths per 100,000 live
16 births and are two to three times more likely to experience
17 pregnancy-related mortality nationally; and

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

22 WHEREAS, The General Assembly approved and the Governor
23 signed Act 24 of 2018, known as the Maternal Mortality Review
24 Act, establishing the multidisciplinary Maternal Mortality
25 Review Committee, as a first step to address the serious issue
26 of increasing maternal mortality across this 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, The Pennsylvania Black Maternal Health Caucus was
3 formed in October 2023 to address the disturbing trends of Black
4 maternal mortality and morbidity in this Commonwealth; and

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

13 RESOLVED, That the Senate designate January 23, 2024, as
14 "Maternal Health Awareness Day" in Pennsylvania to recognize all
15 the women and birthing people who die from complications of
16 pregnancy or childbirth.