

Date of Hearing: January 12, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON RULES

Blanca Pacheco, Chair

ACR 117 (Sharp-Collins) – As Introduced January 6, 2026

**SUBJECT:** Maternal Health Awareness Day.

**SUMMARY:** Proclaims January 23, 2026, as Maternal Health Awareness Day, to draw attention to the efforts that have improved maternal health in California and to highlight the need for continued improvement of maternal health for all women. Specifically, **this resolution** makes the following legislative findings:

- 1) The United States ranks highest among industrialized nations in maternal mortality.
- 2) While the national maternal mortality rate continues to rise, California continues to work diligently and successfully to reverse this alarming trend.
- 3) The California Maternal Quality Care Collaborative (CMQCC), a multi-stakeholder organization committed to ending preventable morbidity, mortality, and racial disparities in California maternity care, was founded in 2006 at Stanford University School of Medicine, in coordination with the California Pregnancy-Associated Mortality Review (CA-PAMR) and the Public Health Institute, in response to rising maternal mortality and morbidity rates.
- 4) The CMQCC uses research, quality improvement toolkits, statewide outreach collaboratives, and its innovative Maternal Data Center to improve health outcomes for mothers and infants.
- 5) A woman's maternal mental health condition can also be a factor in maternal mortality. Recent efforts have been made to bring greater awareness to maternal mental health, ensure more women are screened and treated for postpartum depression or psychosis, and ensure women remain covered by health insurance upon diagnosis.
- 6) Improved screening alone can reduce the severity of postpartum depression. Obstetric providers are implementing more aggressive screening techniques and making strides to further recognize and treat maternal mental health conditions.
- 7) The State Department of Public Health must continue its surveillance to bring heightened awareness to maternal health and lower maternal deaths.
- 8) California must maintain its efforts to maximize health prior to pregnancy, including, but not limited to, preventing smoking, improving fitness, reducing sexually transmitted diseases, and promoting positive relationships; and, must continue to address the postpartum needs of women through such efforts as postpartum visits and interconception care, breastfeeding support, and screening for postpartum depression.
- 9) California should maintain its efforts to improve the coordination of care between obstetrics and psychiatry regarding mental health treatment, as needed, and to continue advancements for improved screening for mental health conditions during and after pregnancy, as well as screening for substance use, adverse childhood experiences, medical diagnoses, including infectious disease, and intimate partner violence.

**FISCAL EFFECT:** This resolution is keyed non-fiscal by Legislative Counsel.

**REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:**

**Support**

None on file

**Opposition**

None on file

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