

THIRD READING

Bill No: ACR 117
Author: Sharp-Collins (D)
Introduced: 1/6/26
Vote: 21

SUBJECT: Maternal Health Awareness Day

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This resolution proclaims January 23, 2026, as Maternal Health Awareness Day.

ANALYSIS: This resolution makes the following legislative findings:

- 1) The United States ranks highest among industrialized nations in maternal mortality. More than 700 women die each year in the United States as a result of pregnancy or delivery complications, and more than one-half of these deaths are preventable.
- 2) The California Maternal Quality Care Collaborative (CMQCC), a multistakeholder 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.
- 3) CMQCC uses research, quality improvement toolkits, statewide outreach collaboratives, and its innovative Maternal Data Center to improve health outcomes for mothers and infants. Since the inception of CMQCC and CA-PAMR, California has achieved a roughly 65% reduction in maternal mortality between 2006 and 2016.
- 4) While California has set an example for the rest of the country and has made progress to reduce maternal mortality through investment in maternal health programs, strong leadership and engagement of the maternity care community, and targeted hospital quality improvement, more needs to be done to narrow

racial and ethnic disparities, especially with Black women, who account for only 5% of pregnancies in California but represent 21% of pregnancy-related deaths and whose pregnancy-related mortality ratio is three to four times greater than the mortality ratios for women of other racial or ethnic groups, including White, Hispanic, and Asian and Pacific Islander.

- 5) California should continue to promote positive birth outcomes for all women through actions, including maternity care quality improvement and home visiting for vulnerable pregnant women, providing additional support for Black women, and increasing culturally and linguistically relevant public awareness about maternal mental health risk factors, signs, symptoms, treatment, and recovery.

This resolution 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.

Related/Prior Legislation

SCR 9 (Weber Pierson, Resolution Chapter 10, Statutes of 2025)

ACR 122 (Aguilar-Curry, Resolution Chapter 17, Statutes of 2024)

ACR 2 (Weber, Resolution Chapter 3, Statutes of 2023)

ACR 120 (Bauer-Kahan, Resolution Chapter 14, Statutes of 2022)

HR 11 (Bauer-Kahan, 2021) – Adopted by the Assembly.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: No Local: No

SUPPORT: (Verified 1/21/26)

American College of Obstetricians & Gynecologists, District IX

OPPOSITION: (Verified 1/21/26)

None received

Prepared by: Hunter Flynn / SFA / (916) 651-4171

1/21/26 16:05:34

**** **END** ****