

Date of Hearing: May 18, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON RULES
Blanca Pacheco, Chair
SCR 164 (Weber Pierson) – As Introduced April 21, 2026

SENATE VOTE: 40-0

SUBJECT: Black Health Equity Advocacy Week.

SUMMARY: Recognizes May 4, 2026, to May 8, 2026, inclusive, and every first full week of May thereafter, as Black Health Equity Advocacy Week. Specifically, **this resolution** makes the following legislative findings:

- 1) According to the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, health equity means everyone has a fair and just opportunity to be as healthy as possible, which requires removing obstacles to health, such as poverty, discrimination, and their consequences, including powerlessness and lack of access to good jobs with fair pay, quality education and housing, safe environments, and health care.
- 2) The life expectancy at birth for Black Californians is 76.2 years of age, five years shorter than the state average and the lowest life expectancy of all racial and ethnic groups. Black Californians experience the highest death rates from breast, cervical, colorectal, lung, and prostate cancer compared to all racial groups.
- 3) Black birthing people in California were six times more likely to die from pregnancy-related complications than White birthing people, 56.2 compared to 9.4 pregnancy-related deaths per 100,000, respectively.
- 4) Black birthing people experience higher rates of prenatal depressive symptoms and disproportionately lower use of postpartum counseling treatments and services than their White counterparts.
- 5) Black Californians have higher rates of serious psychological distress than White Californians, 5.4 percent compared to 2.9 percent. Nearly one-half of Black adults in June 2020 reported experiencing an economic challenge because of the COVID-19 pandemic, three times greater than White adults.
- 6) In an effort to bring awareness to the long-standing structural inequities that negatively impact the health and well-being of Black Californians, as well as to uplift existing efforts to address such inequities and dismantle the environmental and systemic barriers that contribute to disproportionate health outcomes and achieve racial justice, social justice, and environmental justice, the California Black Health Network is recognizing May 4, 2026, to May 8, 2026, as Black Health Equity Advocacy Week.
- 7) Black Health Equity Advocacy Week will help bring communities, organizations, and individuals together to mobilize, strategize, and collaborate on ways to break down the structural barriers that currently exist in California, while mapping out a framework to advance Black health equity in the Golden State.

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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