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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, Black Maternal Health Week, observed annually from April 11 through April 17, was founded and is led by the Black Mamas Matter Alliance to build awareness, activism, and community-driven solutions to improve Black maternal health outcomes; and

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WHEREAS, Black women in the United States continue to experience disproportionately high rates of maternal morbidity and mortality, regardless of income or education, due to systemic inequities, implicit bias, and gaps in access to quality care; and

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WHEREAS, In Illinois, advancing maternal health equity remains a critical priority, requiring sustained collaboration across government, health systems, and community-based organizations; and

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WHEREAS, Culturally competent, community-centered care models have proven essential in improving maternal and infant health outcomes, particularly for Black families; and

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WHEREAS, Organizations across Illinois are leading innovative efforts to support maternal health through education, care coordination, and social support services; and

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1 WHEREAS, Meridian Health Plan, through its MomCare
2 initiative, provides targeted maternal health support
3 services, including care coordination, risk screening, patient
4 education, and community-based interventions designed to
5 improve outcomes for mothers and babies; and

6 WHEREAS, Programs like MomCare demonstrate the importance
7 of integrating managed care organizations, community
8 providers, doulas, and public health systems to address the
9 full continuum of maternal health needs; and

10 WHEREAS, Illinois-based community organizations, health
11 care providers, doulas, midwives, and advocates continue to
12 play a critical role in advancing equity, improving outcomes,
13 and supporting families before, during, and after pregnancy;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, Observing Black Maternal Health Week serves as an
16 opportunity to amplify the voices of Black mothers, recognize
17 community leadership, and recommit to policies and investments
18 that ensure safe, respectful, and equitable maternal
19 healthcare for all; therefore, be it

20 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL
21 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we declare April 11

1 through April 17, 2026 as Black Maternal Health Week in the
2 State of Illinois; and be it further

3 RESOLVED, That we commend the work of organizations,
4 health care providers, managed care entities, and community
5 leaders, including Meridian Health Plan's MomCare initiative,
6 for their dedication to improving maternal health outcomes and
7 advancing equity across Illinois; and be it further

8 RESOLVED, That we reaffirm our commitment to supporting
9 policies, programs, and partnerships that eliminate maternal
10 health disparities and ensure that every mother in Illinois
11 has access to high-quality, culturally competent care; and be
12 it further

13 RESOLVED, That we encourage continued public-private
14 partnerships and innovative care delivery models that expand
15 access, improve outcomes, and strengthen accountability across
16 the maternal health ecosystem.