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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, African American women in the United States experience maternal-related deaths at three to four times the rate of non-Hispanic white women, according to the Mothers and Offspring Mortality and Morbidity Awareness Act, introduced by U.S. Representative Robin Kelly of Illinois in May of 2018; and

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WHEREAS, In Illinois, Non-Hispanic black women are six times as likely to die of a pregnancy-related condition as non-Hispanic white women, and 72 percent of the pregnancy-related deaths and 93 percent of violent pregnancy-related deaths were deemed preventable by review committees; and

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WHEREAS, The United States has not been able to submit a formal maternal mortality rate to international data repositories since 2007; in order to be able to calculate a formal maternal mortality rate, maternal mortality-related data must be streamlined at the State level and extrapolated to the federal level; and

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WHEREAS, Leaders in maternal wellness highly recommend that maternal deaths be investigated at the State level first; and

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1 WHEREAS, Hemorrhage, infection, and hypertensive disorders
2 of pregnancy are among the top common causes of
3 pregnancy-related deaths in Illinois; and

4 WHEREAS, The State of California has established Maternal
5 Mortality Review Committees to determine the most prevalent
6 causes of maternal mortality and has recorded and shared data
7 with providers and researchers, who have developed and
8 implemented safety bundles and care protocols related to
9 preeclampsia, maternal hemorrhage, and other prevalent causes
10 of maternal mortality; and

11 WHEREAS, The Illinois Department of Public Health
12 currently works with the Maternal Mortality Review Committee
13 and the Maternal Mortality Review Committee for Violent deaths
14 to review cases of maternal death and to develop statewide
15 recommendations to prevent future maternal deaths; and

16 WHEREAS, In the State of California, state-based maternal
17 quality collaborative organizations have formed obstetrical
18 protocols, tool kits, and other resources to improve system
19 care and response as they relate to maternal complications and
20 warning signs for conditions, including maternal hemorrhage,
21 hypertension, and preeclampsia; and

22 WHEREAS, Illinois has begun developing protocols and

1 resources to address common causes of maternal mortality in the
2 State, such as implementing new training material regarding
3 hemorrhages through the Obstetric Hemorrhage Education Project
4 (OBHEP) in 2016; and

5 WHEREAS, The CDC reports that more than half of all
6 maternal deaths occur in the immediate postpartum period, which
7 is 42 days to a full year after delivery; yet, for pregnant
8 women, Medicaid coverage lapses at the end of the month on
9 which the 60th postpartum day lands; and

10 WHEREAS, Expanding Medicaid and CHIP coverage for pregnant
11 and postpartum women has been a part of improving federal
12 efforts for the prevention of maternal mortality; and

13 WHEREAS, Racism is deeply ingrained in the United States
14 systems, including in health care delivery systems between
15 patients and providers, often resulting in disparate treatment
16 of pain, irreverence to cultural norms with respect to health,
17 and dismissiveness; however, the provider pool is not primed
18 with many people of color, nor are providers consistently
19 required to undergo implicit bias, cultural competency, or
20 empathy training on a consistent, on-going basis; and

21 WHEREAS, There have been efforts to address implicit bias
22 and cultural competency at the federal level by awarding

1 cooperative agreements for the establishment or support of
2 regional centers of excellence addressing implicit bias and
3 cultural competency in patient-provider interactions for the
4 purpose of enhancing and improving how health care
5 professionals are educated in implicit bias and delivering
6 culturally competent health care; and

7 WHEREAS, The State of Illinois recognizes the importance of
8 investigating and addressing maternal mortality issues in the
9 State; therefore, be it

10 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL
11 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we urge the General
12 Assembly to continue to investigate and identify areas in which
13 the State can improve with respect to the prevention of
14 maternal mortality, especially among vulnerable populations.