



HR0262

LRB103 32246 MST 61473 r

1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Currently, over 860 women die as a result of  
3 pregnancy and childbirth-related causes in the United States,  
4 and the latest data from 2020 shows that over 80% of the  
5 pregnancy-related deaths in the United States are preventable;  
6 and

7 WHEREAS, Illinois had more than 130,000 births in 2020  
8 with 75 pregnancy-associated deaths and 943 infant deaths; and

9 WHEREAS, Eighty-three percent of the pregnancy-related  
10 deaths were deemed preventable in Illinois by review  
11 committees; and

12 WHEREAS, African American women in the United States  
13 experience maternal-related deaths at three times the rate of  
14 non-Hispanic white women, according to the Mothers and  
15 Offspring Mortality and Morbidity Awareness Act, re-introduced  
16 by U.S. Representative Robin Kelly of Illinois in February  
17 2021; and

18 WHEREAS, Non-Hispanic Black women are three times more  
19 likely to die of a pregnancy-related condition than  
20 non-Hispanic white women in Illinois, according to the 2021  
21 Illinois Department of Public Health Illinois Maternal

1 Morbidity and Mortality Report; and

2 WHEREAS, Among the top common causes of pregnancy-related  
3 deaths in Illinois are mental health conditions, pre-existing  
4 chronic conditions, hemorrhage, and hypertensive disorder; and

5 WHEREAS, Research has shown that, relative to white  
6 patients, Black patients are less likely to be given pain  
7 medications, and, when pain medication is given, they receive  
8 lower quantities; and

9 WHEREAS, A 2015 study from JAMA Pediatrics found that  
10 Black children with appendicitis were less likely to receive  
11 pain medication than their white counterparts; and

12 WHEREAS, A study examining disparities in the triaging of,  
13 or assigning a degree of urgency to, pediatric emergency  
14 department patients concluded that Black, Hispanic, and Native  
15 American patients received lower acuity triage scores than  
16 whites when presenting subjective complaints, such as  
17 breathing difficulty or abdominal pain; and

18 WHEREAS, Researchers have also documented an association  
19 between race and increased mortality from stroke, and others  
20 have found that minority patients are less likely to receive  
21 thrombolytics than white patients; and

1           WHEREAS, A study in the Proceedings of the National  
2 Academy of Sciences contributes bias in pain assessment and  
3 management of patients partially to the fact that  
4 approximately half of medical students and residents believed  
5 inaccurate biological differences between Black and white  
6 people, including that Black people have less sensitive nerve  
7 endings or that a Black person's blood coagulates more  
8 quickly, as well as other unconscious biases; and

9           WHEREAS, Biases in patient assessment and treatment affect  
10 the level of care for pregnant women, particularly women of  
11 color; and

12           WHEREAS, Studies have also shown that women are generally  
13 less likely to be diagnosed with diseases, such as heart  
14 disease, and are less likely to receive aggressive treatment  
15 for pain management and certain diseases than men; and

16           WHEREAS, Due to the vast majority of Illinois births  
17 occurring in hospitals, hospitals play an important role in  
18 addressing maternal mortality; and

19           WHEREAS, The Illinois Department of Public Health  
20 currently works with the Maternal Mortality Review Committee  
21 and the Maternal Mortality Review Committee for Violent Deaths

1 to review cases of maternal death and to develop statewide  
2 recommendations to prevent future maternal deaths; therefore,  
3 be it

4 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
5 HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
6 Illinois hospitals should be required to report instances of  
7 preterm birth, infant mortality, and maternal mortality within  
8 reporting under the Hospital Report Card Act, including racial  
9 and ethnic information about the mother and the disparity of  
10 these occurrences across racial and ethnic groups; and be it  
11 further

12 RESOLVED, That the Illinois Department of Public Health is  
13 urged to work with the review committees to implement policy  
14 and corrective actions to address causes of preventable  
15 maternal death.