



## A Resolution addressing Black Maternal Health and COVID-19

**Committee: Health**

**Resolution: HEA-20-10**

1. **Whereas** on March 11, 2020 the World Health Organization declared the novel
2. coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak a global pandemic.
3. **Whereas**, as of November 10, 2020, according to Johns Hopkins University of Medicine
4. Coronavirus Resource Center, there were over 10, 205,207 cases of COVID-19 and
5. 239,274 deaths due to COVID -19.
6. **Whereas** since November 2020, the United States has had several days with new cases
7. over 100,000.
8. **Whereas**, African American women and other people of color have been
9. disproportionately impacted by COVID -19 according to the Centers for Disease Control
- and Prevention (CDC).
10. (CQ Roll Call May 14, 2020 by Sandhya Raman)
11. **Whereas**, According to the American Journal of Managed Care, American women die
- during
12. childbirth at a higher rate than any other developed country, while non-Hispanic Black
13. women are more than three times more likely to have a maternal death than white women
14. in the United States. (AJMC June 13, 2020 Gianna Melillo).
15. **Whereas**, According to the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, COVID-19 may
16. lead to more maternal deaths among African Americans and Latinos.
17. **Whereas**, Congress has introduced legislation to address health care disparities in
18. maternal mortality.
19. **Therefore, Be it resolved**, that the National Organization of Black Elected Legislative
20. Women expresses support for congressional action on the Black Maternal Health
21. Omnibus bill, that would improve data collection, support telehealth, and strengthen
22. insurance coverage.
23. **Therefore, Be it further resolved** that the National Organization of Black Elected
24. Women support recruitment and retention grants to encourage the growth and

25. diversification of the perinatal workforce, including midwives, doulas, and physician
26. assistants.
27. **Therefore, be it further resolved** that the National Organization of Black Elected
28. Legislative Women expresses support and pursues at the state level legislation that
29. extends Medicaid coverage for postpartum coverage for up to a year for pregnant women.
30. **Be it finally resolved,** that the National Organization of Black Elected Legislative
31. Women membership enact such legislation in their respective states to address the factors
32. that contribute to poor pregnancy outcomes for African American women and facilitate
33. systemic changes that improve the health of African American women, before, during
34. and after pregnancy.

**Introduced by The Honorable Karen Camper**  
**Tennessee General Assembly**