

No. R-296. House concurrent resolution recognizing the week of April 11–17, 2026, as Black Maternal Health Week in Vermont.

(H.C.R.244)

Offered by Representatives LaMont of Morristown, Bartley of Fairfax, Berbeco of Winooski, Bos-Lun of Westminster, Burrows of West Windsor, Carris Duncan of Whitingham, Chapin of East Montpelier, Cina of Burlington, Cole of Hartford, Dodge of Essex, Galfetti of Barre Town, Headrick of Burlington, Kleppner of Burlington, Logan of Burlington, McCann of Montpelier, McGill of Bridport, Rachelson of Burlington, Stevens of Waterbury, Tomlinson of Winooski, and Yacovone of Morristown

Whereas, according to a research compendium that KFF, an independent health research organization, issued in December 2025, there are stark racial disparities in the nation’s maternal and infant care health outcomes that are highly unfavorable for Black Americans, and

Whereas, for example, the National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion’s Division of Reproductive Health reported that, in 2023, the pregnancy-related mortality rate per 100,000 births for Black American women was 49.4, while for white American women it stood at a far-lower 14.9, and

Whereas, also in 2023, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention’s National Center for Health Statistics recorded 10.9 Black American infant deaths per 1,000 live births, and the comparable figure for White American infants was 4.5, and

Whereas, the Black Mamas Matter Alliance (BMMA) is “an [a]lliance of perinatal, maternal, and reproductive health Black and women-led organizations and multidisciplinary professionals ... [that seeks] to build consensus and articulate priorities ... from those doing work within ... [the] communities [of Black American women],” and

Whereas, among the organization’s goals are to “cultivate innovative research methods ... to improve Black maternal health ... introduce and enhance holistic and comprehensive approaches to Black mamas’ care ... [and] redirect and reframe the conversation on Black maternal health and amplify the voices of Black mamas,” and

Whereas, annually, BMMA designates Black Maternal Health Week, which, in 2026, is from April 11 to 17, and this year the week’s mission is “to center the voices, leadership, and lived experiences of Black mothers while advancing community-led systems change rooted in healing, trust, and collaboration,” and

Whereas, coinciding with this mission is the theme, “Rooted in Justice & Joy: 10 Years of Building the Black Maternal Health Movement,” both honoring “a decade of groundbreaking work that has transformed the landscape of Black Maternal Health in the U.S,” and “acknowledging the persistent challenges that demand continued innovation and action,” *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly recognizes the week of April 11–17, 2026, as Black Maternal Health Week in Vermont, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to BMMA.