

1 HJR115  
2 206571-1  
3 By Representative Hall  
4 RFD: Rules  
5 First Read: 12-MAR-20

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8 DESIGNATING MAY 10, 2020, AS MATERNAL HEALTH  
9 AWARENESS DAY.

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11 WHEREAS, every year in the United States,  
12 approximately 700 women die as a result of complications  
13 related to pregnancy and childbirth; and

14 WHEREAS, the United States is the only developed  
15 country whose maternal mortality rate has increased over the  
16 last several decades; and

17 WHEREAS, more than 60 percent of maternal deaths in  
18 the United States are preventable; and

19 WHEREAS, significant disparities in maternal health  
20 persist across income and education levels, including that (1)  
21 Black women are 3-4 times more likely to die from a  
22 pregnancy-related cause as are White women; (2) Among all  
23 women with a college education or higher, the ratio for Black  
24 women is 5.2 times higher than that of White women; (3) Women  
25 who live in rural areas have a greater likelihood of severe  
26 maternal morbidity and mortality compared to women who live in  
27 urban areas; and

1           WHEREAS, Alabama's maternal mortality rate ranks  
2           48th in the United States and has increased 21 percent since  
3           2016; and

4           WHEREAS, 41 Alabama women died from  
5           pregnancy-related complications in 2017; and

6           WHEREAS, in Alabama, 22 more Black women die for  
7           every pregnancy-related death of a White woman; and

8           WHEREAS, more than 40 states have designated  
9           Maternal Mortality Review Committees to review maternal deaths  
10          and identify opportunities for prevention; and

11          WHEREAS, an investment must be made in Alabama to  
12          fund a state Maternal Mortality Review Committee to improve  
13          data collection around maternal outcomes and implement  
14          positive changes in health systems and improve health for  
15          women, infants and families; and

16          WHEREAS, "Mother's Day" was nationally recognized in  
17          1914 and is designated as the second Sunday of May each year  
18          as a public expression of love and reverence for all mothers;  
19          now therefore,

20          BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH  
21          HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That we designate May 10, 2020, as  
22          "Maternal Health Awareness Day" in the State of Alabama, in  
23          order to raise public and professional awareness about  
24          important maternal health, safety, and mortality issues and  
25          encourage the development of new programs and initiatives  
26          designed to positively impact maternal health and mortality.