

By: Cole

H.R. No. 1086

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Members of the Black Mamas Community Collective
2 (BMCC) are gathering at the State Capitol on April 15, 2019; and

3 WHEREAS, The BMCC is working to reduce the alarming rates of
4 maternal mortality and morbidity among African American women in
5 Travis County; composed primarily of black women who have survived
6 their own pregnancy and childbirth traumas, the group includes
7 researchers, social workers, policy makers, public health
8 professionals, and community activists who share a commitment to
9 addressing health disparities and inequities that threaten the
10 lives of black women; and

11 WHEREAS, The urgency of the group's work is underscored by
12 several sobering statistics; although black children make up just
13 11 percent of births in Texas, nearly 30 percent of Texas women who
14 die from pregnancy-related complications are black; African
15 American women in Texas experience higher rates of pre-pregnancy
16 obesity and maternal hypertension, have less access to prenatal
17 care, and deliver infants with low birth weights at a rate of 13.9
18 percent, compared to 8.4 percent for all Texas births; and

19 WHEREAS, Black mothers are also at a greater risk of
20 developing postpartum depression than women of other races; most
21 troubling of all, black infants die at a rate of 10.9 for every
22 1,000 infants, which is nearly double the rate of 5.7 for all Texas
23 infant deaths; and

24 WHEREAS, Refusing to stand idle in the face of these

1 injustices, the BMCC is leading a movement to prevent black mothers
2 and infants in Travis County from falling victim to health care
3 inequality; through programs, training, outreach, research, and
4 awareness initiatives, the group is providing black mothers with
5 information and resources that can help ensure a healthy pregnancy
6 and delivery, while also working to identify flaws in the
7 community's health care system that allow racial disparities to
8 persist; and

9 WHEREAS, The Black Mamas Community Collective is calling
10 attention to a public health issue of vital importance to our state,
11 and in so doing, it is serving as a strong and impassioned voice for
12 the well-being of countless vulnerable women and children; now,
13 therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 86th Texas
15 Legislature hereby honor the Black Mamas Community Collective on
16 the occasion of its visit to the State Capitol and commend the group
17 for its unyielding efforts to improve health outcomes for black
18 mothers and children; and, be it further

19 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
20 prepared for the BMCC as an expression of high regard by the Texas
21 House of Representatives.