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TO: The Honorable Detroit City Council

FROM: David Whitaker, Director   
Legislative Policy Division Staff

DATE: July 8, 2024

RE: **RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF MICHIGAN SENATE BILLS 818-827**

Council Member Angela Whitfield-Calloway requested that the Legislative Policy Division (LPD) draft a resolution in support of Michigan Senate Bills 818-827, which are meant to study the status of maternal and perinatal health in Michigan, to address racial and ethnic disparities in health care, and to improve patient care.

Please contact us if we can be of any further assistance.

**BY COUNCIL MEMBER ANGELA WHITFIELD-CALLOWAY**

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF MICHIGAN SENATE BILLS 818-827**

**WHEREAS,** The Detroit City Charter requires the City to “provide for the public peace, health, and safety” of all Detroit residents and to provide for “the development and welfare of our youth, our most precious resource;” and

**WHEREAS,** In April of 2024, Michigan Senators Geiss, Cavanagh, Anthony, Chang, and Santana introduced Senate Bills 818-827, also known as the Michigan “Momnibus” bill package; and

**WHEREAS,** The bill package aims to uplift Black maternal healthcare by studying systemic racial disparities in healthcare and proposing changes to address the issues impacting Black mothers and babies; and

**WHEREAS,** The National Institutes of Health has found that Black patients are systematically undertreated for pain relative to White patients due to racial biases,<sup>1</sup> and the maternal mortality rate for Black women nationally is more than twice as high as their White counterparts according to the Centers for Disease Control;<sup>2</sup> and

**WHEREAS,** According to Michigan data from the Michigan Maternal Mortality Surveillance Program (MMMS), from 2015 to 2019 Black women were nearly 3 times more likely to die from pregnancy-related causes, and 60% of the state’s total maternal deaths were preventable;<sup>3</sup> and

**WHEREAS,** Among other things, this bill package would utilize the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to monitor and study biased perinatal care, require the Department of Civil Rights to receive reports that may identify instances of obstetric violence or racism, ensure that hospitals have a policy in place to support patient protection, ensure that pregnancy status does not affect the right for a patient advocate to make life-sustaining treatment decisions, and supports the ability of patients to use midwives; and

**WHEREAS,** Additionally, Senate Bill 283 would amend the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act to ensure the definition of “sex” discrimination includes pregnancy or lactation status; and

**WHEREAS,** The Detroit City Council is committed to eliminating racial biases in medical care and to protecting the rights of all Detroit residents to receive the best prenatal and postnatal care possible; **NOW THEREFORE BE IT**

**RESOLVED,** The City Council strongly urges the Michigan legislature to pass Senate Bills 818-827; **NOW BE IT FINALLY**

**RESOLVED,** That the Detroit City Clerk provide a copy of this resolution to the Detroit delegations of both the Michigan State House and Senate, in addition to Governor Gretchen Whitmer.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4843483/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/hestat/maternal-mortality/2022/maternal-mortality-rates-2022.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> [https://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/-/media/Project/Websites/mdhhs/MCH-Epidemiology/MMMS\\_2015-2019-Report\\_final.pdf?rev=f3b6b88c83284adf86b6a1220541031f&hash=A5A5FEE6ED5BAE558D72521216FB72FC](https://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/-/media/Project/Websites/mdhhs/MCH-Epidemiology/MMMS_2015-2019-Report_final.pdf?rev=f3b6b88c83284adf86b6a1220541031f&hash=A5A5FEE6ED5BAE558D72521216FB72FC)