

2023-J296

Senate Resolution No. 296

BY: Senator BROUK

MEMORIALIZING Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim January 23, 2023, as Maternal Health Awareness Day in the State of New York

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to recognize official days that are set aside to increase awareness of issues that affect the lives of citizens of New York State; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, it is the sense of this Legislative Body to memorialize Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim January 23, 2023, as Maternal Health Awareness Day in the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, This Maternal Health Awareness Day comes as New York faces troubling maternal health rates and alarming racial disparities in maternal health outcomes; Black women are three to four times more likely to die during childbirth than their white counterparts; and

WHEREAS, According to a report by the New York State Taskforce on Maternal Mortality and Disparate Racial Outcomes, 66% of prenatal related deaths during a two year period involved a cesarean section, and 65% of pregnancy-related deaths during the same time period occurred within a week of the end of pregnancy; and

WHEREAS, Maternal mental health conditions are the most common

complication during pregnancy, with substance abuse and suicide being among the top pregnancy-associated causes of death among New York State's new moms; and

WHEREAS, Studies show that doulas—who are trained, non-clinical professionals who provide physical, emotional and informational support to a pregnant person before, during and after childbirth—have been shown to improve outcomes for the entire family, their care remains out of reach for many families; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is committed to improving maternal health outcomes for families across the state; pregnancy should be an exciting time for a family, not a daunting, life-threatening condition; and

WHEREAS, The objective of Maternal Health Awareness Day in the State of New York is to raise awareness of maternal health issues in our communities and to mobilize efforts in support of gestational parents; the day provides an opportunity for professionals and families to engage in discussions about what needs to be done to improve maternal healthcare; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim January 23, 2023, as Maternal Health Awareness Day in the State of New York; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to The Honorable Kathy Hochul, Governor of the State of New York.