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April 15, 2021

**CONTACT**

Adrianna Tran  
Office of Representative Kamia Brown  
[adrianna.tran@myfloridahouse.gov](mailto:adrianna.tran@myfloridahouse.gov)  
(850) 717-5045

**Representative Kamia Brown Announces This Week as  
Black Maternal Health Awareness Week**

**TALLAHASSEE, Fla. – Representative Brown (D-Ocoee)** has filed a resolution that proclaims this week of April 11<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> as Black Maternal Health Awareness Week in order to bring attention to the health disparities and inequities that Black mothers face. In 2018, Black women in Florida experienced pregnancy-related mortality at a rate nearly three times that of white women, with 32 deaths per 100,000 live births as compared to 12.9 deaths per 100,000 deaths, respectively.

“Our mothers are the backbone of our society; they lift us up and we should do our part in doing the same. Black mothers and babies need our support and our protection and I will do everything in my power to ensure that this happens,” says **Representative Brown**. “Regardless of the color of their skin, every mama deserves the right to *live* to be a mama.”

This declaration comes weeks after it was announced that \$92 million would be invested into extending postpartum Medicaid from 60 days to a year—a step in the right direction toward closing the gap in health disparities throughout people of color that **Representative Brown** had championed throughout the years and through her bill this year, **[HB 645](#)** Postpartum Medicaid Extension.

She has also filed three other bills which aim to help improve minority health issues, including those that address black maternal health disparities. The bills are as follows: **[HB 183](#)** Office of Minority Health and Health Equity, **[HB 1381](#)** Maternal Health Care Outcomes, and **[HB 1383](#)** Maternal Health Care Services.

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