



STATE OF NEW JERSEY
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

Proclamation

WHEREAS, New Jersey is committed to the health and well-being of the women and families in our state; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey was the first state in the nation to establish a Maternal Health Awareness Day; and

WHEREAS, on this second annual Maternal Health Awareness Day, First Lady Tammy Murphy, on behalf of the Murphy Administration, hereby convenes statewide partners to recognize that every woman deserves quality, affordable, and culturally respectful maternal health care and to reaffirm a statewide commitment to reducing maternal mortality, morbidity, and racial health disparities among New Jersey women; and

WHEREAS, the State of New Jersey is focused on improving maternal health outcomes, women's experiences at childbirth, and critical postpartum care, especially for women of color; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Pregnancy Mortality Surveillance System defines a pregnancy-related death as "the death of a woman while pregnant or within one year of the end of a pregnancy- regardless of the outcome, duration or site of the pregnancy- from any cause related to or aggravated by the pregnancy or its management, but not from accidental or incidental causes."; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention defines severe maternal morbidity to include "unexpected outcomes of labor and delivery that result in significant short- or long-term consequences to a woman's health"; and

WHEREAS, according to the America's Health Rankings Annual Report, New Jersey ranked 45th in the country for maternal mortality within 42 days of pregnancy in 2018; and

WHEREAS, over half of the negative maternal outcomes and deaths in New Jersey are preventable; and

WHEREAS, the Murphy Administration is committed to reducing maternal mortality, reducing maternal morbidity, and eliminating racial disparities in maternal health outcomes; and

WHEREAS, collaborative action is needed among public health leaders, government agencies, health systems, clinicians, and elected officials to address this problem; and

WHEREAS, First Lady Tammy Murphy has advocated for culturally inclusive women's health care, convened multidisciplinary stakeholder meetings, and celebrated Family Festivals in communities across New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, many state agencies, in partnership with community-based organizations, have a role in helping to reduce maternal mortality and improve outcomes, including the Department of Health, the Department of Human Services, the Department of Children and Families, and the Department of Banking and Insurance; and

WHEREAS, legislative leaders, in particular the Legislative Black Caucus, have brought much-needed awareness to maternal health and disparate health outcomes for women of color, and have advocated for greater accountability and transparency in the health care system to enhance treatment and improve outcomes; and

WHEREAS, leaders and providers in New Jersey's 49 hospitals with Labor and Delivery units, Federally Qualified Health Centers, and other health services professions are focused on providing quality maternal health care; and

WHEREAS, the Maternal and Child Health Consortia, including the Southern New Jersey Perinatal Cooperative, the Central Jersey Family Health Consortium, and the Partnership for Maternal and Child Health of Northern New Jersey, support perinatal service provisions, education, and quality improvement; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey's partners in efforts to reduce maternal mortality, morbidity, and disparities also include professional and advocacy organizations, including the NJ Section of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, the NJ Section of the Association of Women's Health, Obstetric, and Neonatal Nurses, the NJ Affiliate of the American College of Nurse Midwives, the New Jersey Hospital Association, Hospital Alliance of New Jersey, Fair Share Hospitals Collaborative, Catholic HealthCare Partnership, and the Nicholson Foundation; and

WHEREAS, initiatives include the Postpartum Hemorrhage Project, which was developed by the Association of Women's Health, Obstetric, and Neonatal Nurses; the "Stop, Look, and Listen!" educational maternal safety campaign, which was developed and promoted by the Tara Hansen Foundation, the Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, and Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital; and the Alliance for Innovation on Maternal Health (AIM), which is a national partnership of organizations that is poised to reduce severe maternal mortality and morbidity through initiatives that are being implemented in New Jersey and other states; and

WHEREAS, in order to improve public and professional awareness of the issues related to maternal health and mortality, and promote the various promising efforts to reduce maternal mortality, morbidity, and disparities, it is both reasonable and appropriate to recognize the second annual "Maternal Health Awareness Day" in the State and to annually invite community members and health care professionals, on this day, to participate in appropriate activities relating to maternal health, safety, and mortality;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Philip D. Murphy, Governor of the State of New Jersey, do hereby proclaim:

JANUARY 23, 2019

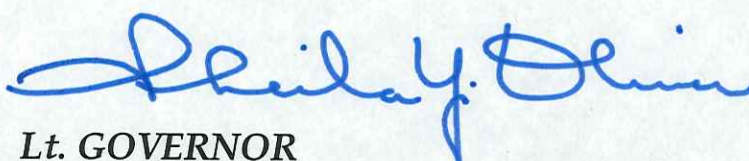
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MATERNAL HEALTH AWARENESS DAY

in New Jersey.



GIVEN, under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of New Jersey, this twenty-second day of January in the year two thousand nineteen, the two hundred forty-third year of the Independence of the United States.


Lt. GOVERNOR


GOVERNOR