

Wilmington, Delaware
November 3, 2022

#

WHEARAS, the 151st General Assembly made substantial advances towards improved maternal healthcare with the passage of House Bill No. 234, 340, 342, 343, 344(S), and 345; and

Sponsor:

**Council
Member
Darby**

WHEREAS, California Assembly Bills (AB) 2193, 3032 and 845 have the potential to further position the First State as a leader in maternal health; and

WHEREAS, AB 845 requires that the Medical Board consider including a course in maternal mental health as a continuing education requirement for physicians and surgeons licensed in the state. AB 2193 requires obstetric providers “to offer to screen or appropriately screen a mother for maternal mental health conditions” at least once during pregnancy or the postpartum period, and requires both private and Medicaid health care service plans to develop maternal mental health programs designed to promote quality and cost-effective outcomes. AB 3032 requires hospitals to develop and implement programs to provide training about maternal mental health conditions to maternity and newborn care unit clinical staff and provide education and information to postpartum women and families about maternal mental health conditions and local treatment options; and

WHEREAS, the United States’ maternal health outcomes are currently among the worst when compared to other high-income countries. Approximately 40 percent of women experience maternal mental health conditions, and nearly half with postpartum depression are not diagnosed. One in seven American women experience postpartum depression that lasts for more than three months, but only half are likely to receive treatment. Maternal Mortality Review Committees in several states indicate that the risk of maternal suicide is highest from six to nine months postpartum; and

WHEREAS, in Delaware’s most recent PRAMS (Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System) report, 17 percent of new mothers said they had experienced depression during their pregnancy; nearly six percent stated that they always or often felt down, depressed, or hopeless postpartum; and almost 8 percent responded that they always or often felt little interest or pleasure in doing things they usually enjoyed since giving birth; and

WHEREAS, mirroring AB 845, 2193, and 3032 in Delaware would expand healthcare providers' capacities to identify and treat maternal mental health conditions. This legislation offers the opportunity for continuous education about maternal mental health conditions for physicians, new mothers, and their families.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WILMINGTON that the Wilmington City Council urges Delaware General Assembly to consider mirroring the legislative actions taken in AB 2193, 3032 and 845 in Delaware to provide mothers with access to early diagnosis and treatment of prenatal or postpartum illnesses, and ensure that perinatal unit employees, physicians and surgeons have a basic knowledge of pressing maternal mental health concerns.

Passed by City Council,

ATTEST: _____
City Clerk

SYNOPSIS: This Resolution expresses strong support from the Wilmington City Council for the passage of bills in Delaware that mirror the legislative actions taken by Assembly Bills (AB) 2193, 3032 and 845 in California. These three bills make provisions for the inclusion of maternal mental health courses in physicians' continuing education requirements; require obstetric providers to offer expecting and postnatal women the opportunity to be screened for mental health conditions; and mandates that perinatal clinical units ensure that their staff, patients, and patient families are adequately informed about maternal mental health conditions.