

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 2nd Session of the 57th Legislature (2020)

3 SENATE  
4 RESOLUTION 10

By: Young

5  
6 AS INTRODUCED

7 A Resolution recognizing annually the week of April  
8 11-17 as "Black Women's Health Week," to bring  
9 statewide attention to the lack of adequate  
10 healthcare access and health disparities black women  
11 face.

12 WHEREAS, black maternal health is in crisis. According to the  
13 Oklahoma State Department of Health, black women account for 10  
14 percent of the births statewide but make up more than 22 percent of  
15 all maternal deaths. Access to affordable and high-quality maternal  
16 care for black women is key to closing this gap; and

17 WHEREAS, black women have been greatly affected by heart  
18 disease, stroke and deep vein thrombosis (DVT). The American Heart  
19 Association reports that heart disease is the leading cause of death  
20 in black women, and overall incidence in black communities is 30 to  
21 60 percent higher than any other ethnicity. The Center for Disease  
22 Control denotes several reasons black women are at a higher risk for  
23 heart disease including high blood pressure, salt or sodium intake,  
24 sickle cell anemia, obesity and diabetes; and

1           WHEREAS, black women have been disproportionately affected by  
2 HIV/AIDS. Although data shows a decline in the reports between  
3 2010-2017, HIV/AIDS is a serious disease that continues to be of  
4 great concern in the black community. Several complex factors  
5 contribute to this disproportionate HIV/AIDS burden, including  
6 poverty, lack of access to health care and stigma. Increased access  
7 to preventative services for sexual and reproductive health is vital  
8 to promoting positive outcomes in black women's health; and

9           WHEREAS, black women bear a disproportionate burden of cancer.  
10 American Cancer Society research shows black women have the highest  
11 mortality rate of any racial or ethnic group for most major cancers  
12 and all cancers combined. Unequal access to quality cancer  
13 prevention, early detection and treatment are factors that must be  
14 removed to increase education and lessen the burden of cancer for  
15 black women; and

16           WHEREAS, black women's health outcomes depend on the education,  
17 accessibility, availability and affordability of quality care.  
18 Access to this care provides health care professionals an  
19 opportunity to learn the concerns of black women and detect and  
20 treat health issues efficiently and effectively, resulting in  
21 positive health outcomes for black women; and

22           WHEREAS, the need for increased black medical professionals  
23 would serve as a conduit for black women to seek the assistance they  
24 need. The ability to relate to medical providers culturally relaxes  
25

1 the process of disclosing health concerns and helps with trust and  
2 credibility; and

3 WHEREAS, declaring the week of April 11-17 as "Black Women's  
4 Health Week" helps to institute increased marketing awareness of  
5 issues relating to black women's health, resulting in improved  
6 health outcomes for black Women.

7 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE 2ND SESSION  
8 OF THE 57TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

9 THAT the Oklahoma State Senate, on behalf of all citizens of  
10 this state, declares April 11-17 as "Black Women's Health Week"  
11 annually.

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