COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

PROCLAMATION

MATERNAL HEALTH AWARENESS DAY
January 23, 2022

WHEREAS, maternal health is integral to the health of our commonwealth, our communities, and our families; and

WHEREAS, in 2018, over 100 women died in Pennsylvania while pregnant or within one year postpartum; and

WHEREAS, maternal death in Pennsylvania affects African American women at nearly twice the rate of white women; and

WHEREAS, accidental poisoning, including drug overdoses, and direct obstetric related causes are the leading causes of maternal death in Pennsylvania; and

WHEREAS, the Pennsylvania Maternal Mortality Review Committee (PA MMRC) determined that ninety-two percent of pregnancy related deaths reviewed were preventable; and

WHEREAS, the PA MMRC determined that in thirty nine percent of deaths reviewed, a mental health condition contributed to the individuals death; and

WHEREAS, maternal deaths could be prevented by implementing and standardizing screening for substance use disorders and mental health in order to reduce stigma and connect pregnant people with the care they need; and

WHEREAS, extending Medicaid coverage up to one year postpartum can help prevent future maternal deaths by reducing barriers to care for people in the postpartum period; and

WHEREAS, improving Pennsylvanian’s knowledge and access of social supports, such as home visiting, doula services, and community health workers, can improve maternal health outcomes; and

WHEREAS, the commonwealth is committed to protecting the health and well-being of pregnant people by continuing to increase public awareness and understanding of health risks and factors that contribute to maternal death.

THEREFORE, I, Tom Wolf, Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, do hereby proclaim January 23, 2022 as MATERNAL HEALTH AWARENESS DAY. Pennsylvania is proud to support communities, medical professionals, public health professionals, families, and all those endeavoring to eliminate preventable maternal deaths and improve maternal health in the commonwealth. I encourage all Pennsylvanians to educate themselves on how they can help prevent maternal deaths.

GIVEN under my hand and the Seal of the Governor, at the City of Harrisburg, this eleventh day of January two thousand twenty-two, the year of the commonwealth the two hundred forty-sixth.

TOM WOLF
Governor