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LRB100 12626 MST 25952 r

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SENATE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Around 160,000 babies are born in the State of
3 Illinois each year and maternal health and, more specifically,
4 the mental health of women before, during, and after pregnancy
5 is an issue of great concern to women and their families and
6 is, therefore, of interest to the State of Illinois; and

7 WHEREAS, Between 10 and 20% of new and expectant mothers
8 are affected by perinatal depression and related mood disorders
9 such as anxiety and psychosis, and they may experience
10 associated symptoms, which are often overlooked and heavily
11 stigmatized because new and expectant mothers suffering from a
12 perinatal mood disorder often feel confused, ashamed, and
13 isolated; and

14 WHEREAS, Many at-risk women may not seek help because they
15 are not informed about perinatal depression and related mood
16 disorders as part of their health care, because there is a lack
17 of knowledge and use of screening and assessment tools, and
18 because they are unaware of treatment and community supportive
19 services for perinatal depression and related mood disorders;
20 and

21 WHEREAS, Heightened awareness and increased education
22 among all residents in the State of Illinois regarding the

1 incidence of perinatal depression is critical; perinatal
2 depression and related mood disorders affect all categories of
3 women and teenage girls regardless of their age, race, or
4 income level; perinatal depression can have a profound impact
5 on the family and significantly contributes to adverse
6 developmental and behavioral outcomes and attachment disorders
7 in the young children of affected women; perinatal depression
8 is highly treatable with therapeutic intervention such as
9 medication, professional therapy and counseling, support
10 groups, and community support services including crisis
11 hotlines; therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDREDTH GENERAL
13 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we declare May of 2017
14 and 2018 as Maternal Mental Health Awareness Month in the State
15 of Illinois; and be it further

16 RESOLVED, That the State of Illinois will encourage
17 collaboration with State and national coalitions,
18 organizations or agencies that are informed about and devoted
19 to maternal mental health to facilitate increased awareness and
20 education about perinatal depression and related mood
21 disorders throughout the State, to explore and encourage the
22 use of prenatal screening tools, and to improve the
23 availability and access to effective treatment, prevention and
24 support services for the promotion of maternal and infant

1 mental health whenever possible in the State of Illinois.