

## House Resolution 707

By: Representatives Dempsey of the 13<sup>th</sup>, Jones of the 47<sup>th</sup>, Cooper of the 43<sup>rd</sup>, Gardner of the 57<sup>th</sup>, and Parrish of the 158<sup>th</sup>

## A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing May 1, 2019, as Maternal Mental Health Day at the state capitol; and for other  
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, maternal mental health is a critically important concern to women, their  
4 children and partners, and communities and must be a primary concern for the health and  
5 safety of families in the State of Georgia; and

6 WHEREAS, perinatal mood and anxiety disorders currently cause depression, anxiety,  
7 obsessive compulsive thoughts, and/or psychosis in 1 out of 7 Georgian mothers and only 10  
8 percent of women with these disorders receive treatment; and

9 WHEREAS, research has shown that untreated maternal depression and anxiety during  
10 pregnancy or postpartum negatively affects birth outcomes and infant development,  
11 including infant mental health and brain development; and

12 WHEREAS, perinatal mood and anxiety disorders are highly treatable through assessment  
13 screenings, therapeutic interventions, community-based support services, and medication;  
14 and

15 WHEREAS, increased awareness, education, and resources for screening, assessment,  
16 referral, and treatment of perinatal mood and anxiety disorders should be available to all  
17 women and their providers throughout the State of Georgia.

18 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
19 the members of this body join maternal mental health support programs such as the  
20 Postpartum Support International Georgia Chapter in the belief that public awareness  
21 regarding maternal mental health is a public health priority and recognize May 1, 2019, as  
22 Maternal Mental Health Day at the state capitol.

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
24 and directed to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to the  
25 press and public.