

House Resolution 1083

By: Representatives Thomas of the 56th, Stovall of the 74th, Shannon of the 84th, Hugley of the 136th, and Hopson of the 153rd

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the Georgia Association of Black Women Attorneys and the Georgia
2 Association for Women Lawyers Legislative Day, "Maternal Mortality in Georgia: An
3 Epidemic for Black Women," on February 6, 2020; and for other purposes.

4 WHEREAS, the Georgia Association of Black Women Attorneys is a state-wide organization
5 founded in 1981 by a group of African American women to focus on women's and children's
6 issues, increase black female representation in the judiciary and public offices, and take a
7 proactive stance on political issues; it has members throughout the state with regional
8 chapters in Albany, Athens, Augusta, Columbus, Macon, and Savannah; and

9 WHEREAS, the Georgia Association for Women Lawyers proudly serves the diverse
10 interests of women lawyers in Georgia; it is a statewide bar organization with local chapters
11 in Blue Ridge, Columbus, Douglas-Paulding, Gwinnett, John Marshall Law School,
12 Savannah, and Valdosta, along with national affiliations; and

13 WHEREAS, during the 2019 legislative session, the Georgia General Assembly created the
14 House Study Committee on Maternal Mortality with H.R. 589; the committee consisted of
15 Representative Sharon Cooper, Representative Mark Newton, Representative Chuck
16 Efstrotation, Representative Carolyn Hugley, Representative Deborah Silcox, Representative
17 Valencia Stovall, Representative Darlene Taylor, Dr. Jane Ellis, and Dr. Chad Ray; and

18 WHEREAS, the committee's final report found that the majority of pregnancy-related deaths
19 in Georgia are preventable and issued 19 recommendations to improve maternal health
20 statewide; and

21 WHEREAS, the committee also found significant racial disparities in maternal health but
22 acknowledged its lack of understanding about the causes for the disparities; and

23 WHEREAS, the committee recommended that Medicaid be expanded to cover postpartum
24 care for up to one year and that continued research on racial disparity, social determinants
25 of health, and genetics is needed to further understand and prevent maternal mortality.

26 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
27 the members of this body recognize the Georgia Association of Black Women Attorneys and
28 the Georgia Association for Women Lawyers Legislative Day, "Maternal Mortality in
29 Georgia: An Epidemic for Black Women," on February 6, 2020.

30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
31 and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the
32 Georgia Association of Black Women Attorneys and the Georgia Association for Women
33 Lawyers.