

The Senate Committee on Health and Human Services offered the following substitute to SR 584:

#### A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing May 4, 2022, as Maternal Mental Health Day at the Capitol; and for other  
2 purposes.

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

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

9 WHEREAS, Georgia is experiencing a maternal health crisis, ranking 50th in the nation for  
10 maternal mortality; and

11 WHEREAS, perinatal mood and anxiety disorders are the most common complication  
12 following childbirth; and

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

16 WHEREAS, perinatal mood and anxiety disorders are highly treatable through assessment  
17 screenings, therapeutic interventions, community based support services, and medication;  
18 and

19 WHEREAS, COVID-19 has further exacerbated mental health disorders for expectant and  
20 postpartum families, including increases in anxiety, depression, and suicidal thoughts; and

21 WHEREAS, the Postpartum Support International Georgia Chapter ([www.psig.org](http://www.psig.org)) offers  
22 free support groups, training, and access to care for Georgia families experiencing these  
23 mental health challenges; and

24 WHEREAS, the Georgia Department of Public Health has prioritized maternal mental health;  
25 and

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

29 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body  
30 join maternal mental health support programs such as the Postpartum Support International  
31 Georgia Chapter in the belief that public awareness regarding maternal mental health is a  
32 public health priority and recognize May 4, 2022, as Maternal Mental Health Day at the  
33 Capitol.

34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed  
35 to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the public and the  
36 press.