

House Resolution 1595

By: Representatives Cannon of the 58th, Taylor of the 92nd, Scott of the 76th, Schofield of the 63rd, Baker of the 64th, and others

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Recognizing March 14, 2026, as Black Midwives Day in Georgia; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, Black midwives fulfill an essential role and contribute to improving maternal
3 health outcomes by addressing disparities and providing congruent care to Black birthing
4 people; and
- 5 WHEREAS, Black midwives fulfill an essential role and contribute to improving maternal
6 health outcomes by addressing disparities and providing congruent care to Black birthing
7 people; and
- 8 WHEREAS, Black maternal health in the United States remains in crisis, with Black birthing
9 people experiencing significantly higher rates of maternal morbidity and mortality regardless
10 of income, education, or socioeconomic status; and
- 11 WHEREAS, many cities and counties in the United States face a high number of maternity
12 care deserts, where women of childbearing age do not have access to hospitals or birth
13 centers offering maternity care or obstetric providers, which leads to higher rates of maternal
14 morbidity and mortality, as most complications occur in the postpartum period when birthing
15 people are far away from their providers; and

16 WHEREAS, integrating midwives into the maternity care system has been shown to improve
17 birth outcomes, reduce medical interventions, and decrease the racial disparities in maternal
18 and infant health; and

19 WHEREAS, midwives can assist birthing people and their families with safe and effective
20 childbirth options, and promulgating midwifery promotes access to safe and effective
21 antepartum, intrapartum, and postpartum care; and

22 WHEREAS, Black midwives have historically provided holistic community centered care
23 yet have been systematically excluded from healthcare systems through restrictive policies
24 and regulations; and

25 WHEREAS, the resurgence of Black midwifery is a testament to midwives' resilience and
26 their commitment to reclaiming traditional birthing practices that prioritize respect,
27 autonomy, and positive health outcomes; and

28 WHEREAS, it is important to invest in midwifery to expand access to midwifery education
29 and training and to ensure fair compensation and support for midwives; and

30 WHEREAS, in order to facilitate optimal healthcare access, midwives should have no
31 restrictions to practicing midwifery to the full extent and scope of their training; and

32 WHEREAS, in order to promote the restoration of Black midwives to their communities, all
33 educational and certification pathways should be open, available, and funded to build the
34 workforce of midwives; and

35 WHEREAS, observing Black Midwives Day creates an opportunity to support and recognize
36 the long-standing and invaluable contributions of Black midwives to maternal and infant
37 health in the United States.

38 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
39 the members of this body recognize March 14, 2026, as Black Midwives Day in Georgia.

40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
41 and directed to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to the
42 National Black Midwives Alliance.