

AAMA Maternal Health Resolution

WHEREAS, every year in the United States, between 700 to 1,200 women die from pregnancy or childbirth complications; and

WHEREAS, African American women are three to four times more likely to die from pregnancy or delivery complications than white women; and

WHEREAS, African American college-educated mothers who give birth in local hospitals are more likely to suffer severe complications of pregnancy or childbirth than non-hispanic white women without high school diplomas; and

WHEREAS, women in the United States are more likely to die from childbirth or pregnancy-related causes than other women in the developed world; and

WHEREAS, the Corporation recognizes that there racial inequities concerning maternal health conditions, including access to quality and affordable health care, differential access to healthy food and clean drinking water; and

WHEREAS, African American women are more likely to be uninsured outside of pregnancy, when Medicaid kicks in, and thus more likely to start prenatal care later and to lose coverage in the postpartum period; and

WHEREAS, maternal mortality rates may be preventable by examining differences in maternal health quality of care; and

WHEREAS, establishing standardized protocols across all hospitals and local healthcare providers to appropriately assess and address childbirth and postpartum complications will help mitigate maternal health outcome disparities.

NOW THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY

RESOLVED, that all Mayors who are Active Members of the Corporation shall work with local health officials and community health organizations to develop an action plan on reducing disparities in maternal health outcomes; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Corporation shall work through the local, state and federal legislative processes to ensure maternal mortality rates for African American women shall be closely monitored and adequate precautionary measures are enacted.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Corporation shall support funding for the Title V Maternal and Child Health Services Block Grant Program, which provides funding for communities to work towards reducing infant mortality, and improve the health of pregnant women.