



STATE OF NEW MEXICO **EXECUTIVE OFFICE** SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO

Proclamation

WHEREAS, *Black Maternal Health Week* was founded and led by Black Mamas Matter Alliance as an intentional week of awareness, activism, and community building that amplifies the voices of local and national Black mamas, women, families, and stakeholders on this important issue; serves as a national platform for local Black women-led entities and efforts on maternal health, birth justice, and reproductive justice; and enhances community organizing by Black Mama led entities and thought leaders via community conversations, events, and outreach; and

WHEREAS, several jurisdictions throughout the United States recognize *Black Maternal Health Week* to amplify the voices of Black mamas and center the values and traditions of the reproductive and birth justice movements and acknowledge the health inequities we face as a country; and

WHEREAS, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Black women in the United States are 3 to 4 times more likely than white women to die from pregnancy-related causes. Black women in the United States suffer from life-threatening pregnancy complications, known as “maternal morbidities”, twice as often as white women. Maternal mortality rates in the United States are among the highest in the developed world and increasing rapidly; and

WHEREAS, Black women are 49 percent more likely than white women to deliver prematurely. The high rates of maternal mortality among Black women do not decrease with improved access across income levels, education levels, and socioeconomic status; and

WHEREAS, research indicates that structural racism, gender oppression, and the social determinants of health inequities experienced by Black women in the United States significantly contribute to the disproportionately high rates of maternal mortality and morbidity among Black women; and

WHEREAS, in the state of New Mexico the number of observed deaths in Black/African American women is 4.12 times higher than the expected, based on the MMR in New Mexico. (NM Vital Records, 2019); and

WHEREAS, *Black Maternal Health Week* brings local and national attention to the importance of birth equity and maternal health outcomes; acknowledges the maternal health crisis in the United States and the importance of reducing maternal mortality and morbidity among Black women and birthing people; highlights the state of Black maternal health in the US and community-driven policy, program, and care solutions that exist locally and throughout our nation; declares that no one is ever statistically insignificant, and that every life counts; supports Black women and birthing persons to be active participants in the policy decisions that impact their lives; encourages all women, families child birthing people and supporters to promote health and justice in their families and communities and to learn more about the disparities of birth outcomes and maternal health for Black women and birthing people both locally and nationally as we collectively work to achieve health equity in our state and our country.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Michelle Lujan Grisham, Governor of the State of New Mexico, do hereby proclaim April 11, 2021 through April 17, 2021 as:

“Black Maternal Health Week”

throughout the state of New Mexico.

Attest:

*Done at the Executive Office this
9th day of April 2021.*

Maggie Toulouse Oliver

*Maggie Toulouse Oliver
Secretary of State*

*Witness my hand and the Great Seal
of the State of New Mexico.*

Michelle Lujan Grisham

*Michelle Lujan Grisham
Governor*

