



2007 ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION 96

February 4, 2008 - Introduced by Representatives VAN ROY, SHERIDAN, MUSSER, BOYLE, TOWNSEND, TURNER, OWENS, WASSERMAN, KERKMAN, ALBERS, A. OTT, MURSAU, M. WILLIAMS, HIXSON, PETROWSKI, MOULTON, DAVIS, NERISON, MURTHA and BERCEAU, cosponsored by Senators DARLING, LASSA, OLSEN and ROESSLER. Referred to Committee on Rules.

1 **Relating to:** recognition of July as Postpartum Depression Awareness Month.

2 Whereas, postpartum depression is a disabling condition that affects 10 to 15
3 percent of mothers within a year after childbirth; and

4 Whereas, postpartum depression is the most common complication of
5 childbearing; and

6 Whereas, postpartum depression affects women regardless of their age,
7 economic status, racial or ethnic background, or the number of children they may
8 have borne; and

9 Whereas, 28 percent of impoverished new mothers suffer from postpartum
10 depression; and

11 Whereas, it is estimated that 800,000 new mothers are affected by postpartum
12 depression each year; and

13 Whereas, mental health professionals believe that social, psychological, and
14 biological factors all contribute to the onset of postpartum depression in new
15 mothers; and

1 Whereas, the risk of postpartum depression is greater if the woman has a
2 history of depression in general or previous postpartum depression, severe
3 premenstrual syndrome, thyroid imbalance, difficulty conceiving, a non-supportive
4 partner, and stress related to family, marriage, occupation, housing, and other
5 events during pregnancy or after childbirth; and

6 Whereas, symptoms of postpartum depression can include: constant anxiety,
7 restlessness, or irritability; sadness; excessive crying; mood swings; insomnia;
8 confusion; inability to concentrate, remember, or make decisions; headaches, chest
9 pains, racing heart, or hyperventilation; sudden change in appetite and weight; loss
10 of interest or pleasure in activities; feelings of inadequacy, guilt, or worthlessness;
11 emotional detachment and disinterest in the newborn; fear of harming the baby or
12 oneself; and

13 Whereas, postpartum depression can have a negative impact on a new mother's
14 ability to care for herself, her newborn, and other children living in the home; and

15 Whereas, children of mothers with postpartum depression are more likely to
16 have cognitive delays, behavioral problems, or emotional and social dysfunction
17 throughout their life; and

18 Whereas, the most severe cases of postpartum depression have resulted in new
19 mothers committing suicide or harming their children; and

20 Whereas, postpartum depression is treatable and will resolve with professional
21 counseling and medication; and

22 Whereas, the majority of soon-to-be mothers are not aware of the risk factors
23 or symptoms associated with postpartum depression; and

24 Whereas, fewer than 15 percent of new mothers suffering from postpartum
25 depression will receive treatment; and

