

# House Joint Resolution 15

Sponsored by Representative TOMEI; Representatives BERGER, GREENLICK, KOTEK, MAURER

## SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Recognizes March 2009 as Maternal Mental Health Awareness Month and encourages Early Childhood Council, health care providers, would-be parents and other stakeholders to address mental health needs of pregnant and postpartum women and their families.

## JOINT RESOLUTION

Whereas maternal mental health directly affects women, infants and children and must be seen as a primary concern for the health and safety of families; and

Whereas pregnancy and postpartum mood disorders, which include depression, anxiety, mania and psychosis are pervasive but treatable illnesses and occur in approximately one out of eight of all pregnant and postpartum women; and

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

Whereas maternal risk factors for the development of perinatal mood disorders can be reliably identified, assessed and treated by health care providers and public health systems; and

Whereas families can be informed of the importance of mental health during pregnancy and postpartum and can be given information that will empower them to take preventive measures; and

Whereas reliable, evidence-based methods for culturally competent risk evaluation, screening and treatment have been developed and could be adopted in Oregon; and

Whereas provider education and public awareness regarding maternal mental health is a public health priority; and

Whereas accessible local, state and federal resources for screening, assessment, referral and treatment need to be available to all childbearing families and their health care providers throughout the State of Oregon; now, therefore,

### **Be It Resolved by the Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon:**

That we, the members of the Seventy-fifth Legislative Assembly:

(1) Recognize the month of March 2009 as Maternal Mental Health Awareness Month;

(2) Encourage the Early Childhood Council to address perinatal mental health as a public health priority; and

(3) Encourage health care providers, would-be parents and other stakeholders to collaborate in the development of a statewide care network for perinatal mental health and to increase awareness and understanding of the mental health needs of pregnant and postpartum women and their families.

**NOTE:** Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.