

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

Action:	Do Pass
Vote:	9 - 0 - 1
Yeas:	Boone, Dembrow, Doherty, Frederick, Huffman, Maurer, Olson, VanOrman, Tomei
Nays:	0
Exc.:	Freeman
Prepared By:	Rick Berkobien, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	2/3

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Recognizes May as Maternal Mental Health Awareness Month. Encourages Early Childhood Council, health care providers, parents and other stakeholders to increase understanding and awareness of the mental health needs of pregnant and postpartum women and their families. Declares an emergency, effective upon passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Women affected by postpartum depression
- Need for awareness of problem
- Best methods to conduct outreach to different cultures
- Need to look at spectrum of health care needs, from physical health to mental health
- Research on maternal depression

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: Mothers with a severe, untreated psychiatric disorder lasting two months or more affect their children in a variety of ways. Evidence based studies find that babies of these mothers suffer lower birth weights, smaller head circumferences, higher preterm rates, near twice the normal stillbirth rate, more Cesarean sections and more complications in pregnancy and delivery. After birth, these same children continue to struggle. Babies of mothers affected by depression/anxiety disorders have trouble sleeping, eating, gaining weight and attaching. Additionally, these children may experience cognitive and language delays, poorer social, behavioral, and emotional health, greater risk of drug, alcohol or tobacco use and more psychiatric problems as they grow into their teens. Only 11 percent of women affected by perinatal mood disorders receive treatment.