

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

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Action:	Do Pass
Vote:	5 - 0 - 0
Yeas:	Bates, Kruse, Morrisette, Morse, Monnes Anderson
Nays:	0
Exc.:	0
Prepared By:	Rick Berkobien, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	2/11

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**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:**

- Treatment and problems associated with postpartum depression
- Need for awareness of importance of maternal mental health
- Women’s Health and Wellness Alliance activities to address issue
- Incident rate of women who have problems
- Personal experiences of women who have experienced postpartum depression
- Oregon Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:** No amendment.

**BACKGROUND:** Mothers with severe untreated psychiatric disorders 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. In Oregon, 23 percent of women report symptoms of depression during and/or after pregnancy.