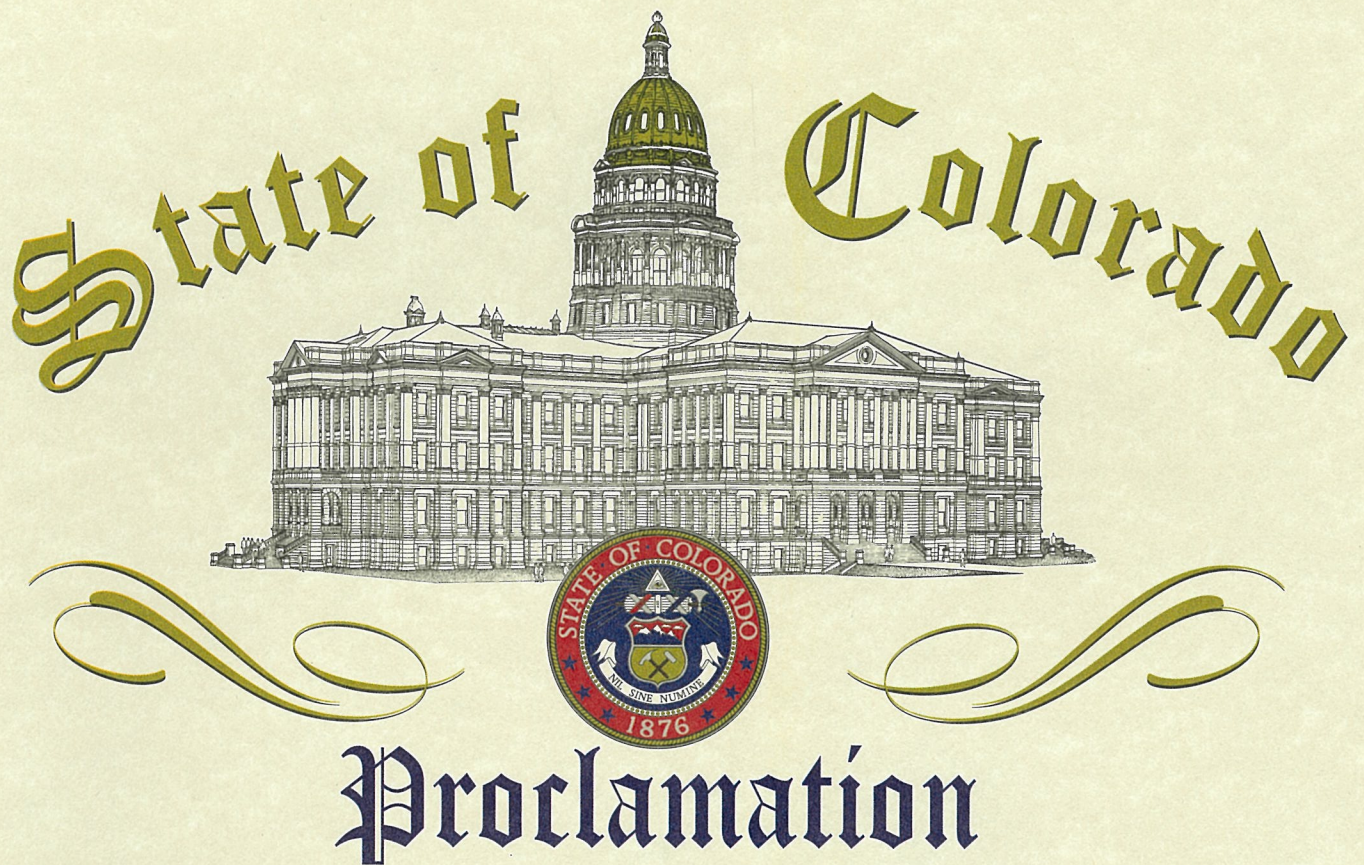




WHEREAS, the United States and the State of Colorado faces an urgent Black maternal health crisis, with Black women and birthing people experiencing disproportionately higher rates of maternal mortality, pregnancy-related complications, and systemic barriers to quality care—despite advancements in medical science; and

WHEREAS, the root causes of this crisis are deeply embedded in structural racism, implicit bias in healthcare, economic injustice, and systems that fail to center the lived experiences and wisdom of Black mothers, birth workers, and community advocates; and

WHEREAS, Black Maternal Health Week serves as a clarion call to honor the resilience, strength, and sacredness of Black motherhood while demanding immediate action to eliminate racial disparities in maternal health outcomes; and

WHEREAS, true maternal health justice requires dismantling the systems that perpetuate harm, including the criminalization of pregnancy outcomes, barriers to midwifery and doula care, inadequate postpartum support, and the exclusion of Black voices from decision-making tables. Participating organizations such as Soul 2 Soul Sisters, Elephant Circle, Sister-2-Sister, along with perinatal healthcare providers, birth workers and Black moms help address structural racism, gender oppression, and social determinants of health inequities experienced by Black people in Colorado; and

WHEREAS, honoring Black Maternal Health Week is not merely an act of acknowledgment, but a commitment to action—demanding policy shifts, investing in Black-led initiatives, amplifying Black birth workers, and ensuring that every Black mother and birthing person receives compassionate, culturally competent, and affirming care;

THEREFORE, I, Jared Polis, Governor of the State of Colorado, do hereby proclaim the period of time between April 11 and April 17, 2025, as

BLACK MATERNAL HEALTH WEEK

in the State of Colorado.

GIVEN under my hand and the
Executive Seal of the State of Colorado,
this eleventh day of April, 2025



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jared Polis".

Jared Polis
Governor