

STATE OF ILLINOIS



Proclamation

WHEREAS, based on the number of births each year in Illinois, it is estimated that 27,000 to 36,000 mothers are affected by moderate to severe postpartum emotional symptoms annually in Illinois; and,

WHEREAS, 15 to 20 percent of pregnant women and new mothers experience moderate to severe symptoms, collectively known as perinatal mood and anxiety disorders, including depression, panic disorder, obsessive-compulsive disorder, post-traumatic stress disorder, and other conditions; one to two in every 1,000 mothers in the United States will experience postpartum psychosis, a medical emergency that poses an immediate threat of suicide or infanticide; and,

WHEREAS, perinatal mood and anxiety disorders can develop at any time during pregnancy, more so within the first 12 months after childbirth; they impact not only the mother, but also the child, father, and entire family unit and has been called "the most significant complication associated with childbirth"; and,

WHEREAS, research has shown that untreated perinatal mood and anxiety disorders during pregnancy or postpartum can negatively affect birth outcomes and infant development, including mother-infant attachment and bonding, infant mental health and brain development, long-term social and cognitive development of the child, and the well-being of the entire family unit; and,

WHEREAS, with proper awareness, education, intervention, and resources, PPMs are nearly 100 percent treatable; and,

WHEREAS, increasing public awareness among all Illinois families on the prevalence, identification, and treatment of these disorders has significant potential to save lives and prevent the unnecessary suffering experienced by so many families following childbirth;

*THEREFORE, I, JB Pritzker, Governor of the State of Illinois, do hereby proclaim May 2022 as **Maternal Mental Health Awareness Month** in Illinois to raise awareness of these serious and debilitating disorders that affect childbearing women and their families.*

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Illinois to be affixed.

Done at the Capitol in the City of Springfield,

this TWENTY-FIFTH day of MARCH, in

the Year of Our Lord, two thousand and

TWENTY-TWO, and of the State of Illinois,

two hundred and FOURTH.



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SECRETARY OF STATE

JB Pritzker

GOVERNOR