

National Federation of Democratic Women

Resolution on Maternal Mortality and the MOMMA Act

WHEREAS, the United States has the highest rate of maternal mortality among developed nations, with 700 American women dying each year due to complications from pregnancy and childbirth. The 2015 statistics compiled by the World Health Organization rank the U.S. as 46th in maternal mortality; and

WHEREAS, the Center for Disease Control reports higher rates of maternal mortality for women of color. According to the CDC statistics, mortality for white women is 12.7 per 100,000 while the rate for black women is 43.5 per 100,000 births; and

WHEREAS, 70% of the deaths from pregnancy and childbirth complications are preventable with proper intervention.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the National Federation of Democratic Women supports passage of the Mothers and Offspring Mortality & Morbidity Awareness (MOMMA) Act, which offers a five-pronged approach to reducing maternal deaths:

- Establishing national obstetric emergency protocols through a federal expert committee,
- Ensuring dissemination of best shared practices and coordination amongst maternal mortality review committees,
- Standardizing data collection and reporting,
- Improving access to culturally competent care throughout the care continuum, and
- Expanding Medicaid coverage to a new mom's entire post-partum period (one year).