

**SB-42, Concerning the study and investigation of maternal deaths in the state of Kansas**

Senator Richard Hilderbrand, Chair  
Senator Beverly Gossage, Vice Chair  
Ranking Minority Member, Pat Petty  
Committee Members at Large

The health of women is an important priority in Kansas because it strengthens families and communities. Every maternal death represents not just the loss of a woman's life, but the impact of that loss on her family and the community. This loss can have lasting health consequences, and result in avoidable medical expenses. Pregnancy related deaths in Kansas are too high. Data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Kansas Mortality Review Committee show that Black and Indigenous women are 3 to 4 times more likely to die from pregnancy-related causes. Multi-disciplinary independent pregnancy related mortality review committees such as the Kansas Maternal Mortality Review Committee, (KMMRC) can be very effective in reducing these needless maternal deaths by continuing to promote the maternal review process as one of the best ways to understand *why* maternal mortality rates are increasing and effectively address the glaring racial disparities that exist. Just as important, per SB-42, the review committee should prioritize evidenced interventions that are proven to prevent deaths and improve overall maternal health. When supporting the family values that are incorporated in SB-42 we will raise awareness to these critical issues surrounding pregnancy related deaths and the devastating racial disparities that exist. Women who are pregnant or postpartum need our help and now is the time to act! Below are three of the measures highlighted in SB-42. Each will not only help to raise and maintain awareness of this important issue they will help to save lives, strengthen families and improve the maternal health and overall health outcomes for women. Acting now could help save the life of a family member, friend or neighbor. Please support and help SB-42 become law. Thank you.

- Increase data collection to include the implementation of performance measures
- Promote continuity of care
- Strengthen the capacity of the State Health Departments to implement quality indicators to better assess the quality of maternity care

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