

House Bill 3625

Sponsored by Representative TOMEI (Presession filed.)

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Designates May of each year as Maternal Mental Health Awareness Month.
Declares emergency, effective on passage.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to Maternal Mental Health Awareness Month; and declaring an emergency.

3 Whereas maternal mental health directly affects women, infants and children and must be seen
4 as a primary concern for the health and safety of families; and

5 Whereas perinatal mood disorders, which include depression, anxiety, mania and psychosis, are
6 pervasive but treatable illnesses and occur in approximately one out of eight of all pregnant and
7 postpartum women; and

8 Whereas research has shown that untreated maternal depression and anxiety during pregnancy
9 or postpartum negatively affects birth outcomes and infant development, including infant mental
10 health and brain development; and

11 Whereas maternal risk factors for the development of perinatal mood disorders can be reliably
12 identified, assessed and treated by health care providers and public health systems; and

13 Whereas families should be informed of the importance of mental health during pregnancy and
14 postpartum and can be given information that will empower them to take preventive measures; and

15 Whereas reliable, evidence-based methods for culturally competent risk evaluation, screening
16 and treatment have been developed and could be adopted in Oregon; and

17 Whereas provider education and public awareness regarding maternal mental health is a public
18 health priority; and

19 Whereas accessible local, state and federal resources for screening, assessment, referral and
20 treatment need to be available to all childbearing families and their health care providers through-
21 out the State of Oregon; now, therefore,

22 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

23 **SECTION 1.** (1) **May of each year is designated as Maternal Mental Health Awareness**
24 **Month.**

25 **(2) The purpose of the designation is to:**

26 **(a) Encourage the Early Childhood Council to address perinatal mental health as a public**
27 **health priority; and**

28 **(b) Encourage health care providers, parents, expecting parents and other stakeholders**
29 **to collaborate in the development of a statewide care network for perinatal mental health**
30 **and to increase awareness and understanding of the mental health needs of pregnant and**
31 **postpartum women and their families.**

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter *[italic and bracketed]* is existing law to be omitted.
New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 **SECTION 2.** This 2010 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public
2 peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2010 Act takes effect
3 on its passage.

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