

**BY:** Senator COMRIE

**HONORING** the Birth by Queens Foundation for its leadership in advancing equitable, community-based maternal health care

**WHEREAS,** It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and honor organizations that demonstrate exceptional leadership in promoting public health, advancing health equity, and improving outcomes for families and communities across the State of New York; and

**WHEREAS,** Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor the Birth by Queens Foundation for its leadership in advancing equitable, community-based maternal health care and for its efforts to establish the first freestanding birth center in the Borough of Queens; and

**WHEREAS,** Birth centers are freestanding healthcare facilities that provide safe, midwifery-led care supporting pregnancy, birth, postpartum, newborn care, and family wellness; and

**WHEREAS,** Birth centers are guided by the principles of safety, prevention, patient- and family-centered care, appropriate medical intervention, shared decision-making, cultural sensitivity, and cost-effectiveness; and

**WHEREAS,** Over 400 birth centers across the United States provide a broad range of services including prenatal care, childbirth, postpartum care, wellness exams, newborn exams, STI screening and treatment, contraceptive care, and family planning services; and

**WHEREAS,** Decades of research-including two large-scale national birth center studies and the CMS-funded Strong Start for Mothers and Newborns Initiative-have demonstrated that midwifery-led birth centers significantly improve birth outcomes, reduce cesarean sections, lower rates of preterm and low-birthweight births, increase breastfeeding rates, and provide cost-effective care for childbearing families; and

**WHEREAS,** Studies confirm that culturally centered, community-based birth centers improve care experiences for families in rural, minority, and underserved communities while helping to address persistent racial and geographic disparities in perinatal care; and

**WHEREAS,** New York is one of eight state chapters of the American Association of Birth Centers, yet there are currently only eight birth centers operating across the entire State of New York; and

**WHEREAS,** Despite being home to 2.3 million residents, the Borough of Queens-one of the most diverse communities in the nation-currently has no freestanding birth center available to serve its families and address local maternal health disparities; and

**WHEREAS,** Birth By Queens Foundation is actively leading efforts to establish the first freestanding birth center in Queens, representing a vital reinvestment in the health, wellness, and future of Queens families; and

**WHEREAS,** Through its leadership and advocacy, Birth By Queens Foundation is addressing longstanding maternal health disparities, expanding access to midwifery-led and culturally centered care, and working to improve maternal and infant health outcomes across Queens and New York City; and

**WHEREAS,** The birth center model represents a proven solution to the maternal health crisis in the United States and is a vital component of addressing inequities and improving maternal health outcomes in New York State; and

**WHEREAS,** Expanding access to birth center care in Queens and throughout New York will help ensure that all individuals have access to safe, respectful, person-centered, and community-rooted maternity care; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED,** That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor the Birth By Queens Foundation for its commitment, leadership, and advocacy in advancing equitable maternal health care and for its efforts to establish the first freestanding birth center in the Borough of Queens; and be it further

**RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Birth By Queens Foundation.