#### THE THARAKA NITHI COUNTY REPRODUCTIVE

### HEALTH BILL, 2020 A Bill for—

# AN ACT of the Tharaka Nithi County to provide for reproductive health and for

**Enacted** by the County Assembly of Tharaka Nithi as follows—

Short title.

**1.** This Act may be cited as the Reproductive Health Act, 2020

Interpretatio n.

**2.** In this Act unless the context otherwise requires—

"abortifacient" means any drug or device that induces abortion or the destruction of a fetus inside the mother's womb or the prevention of the fertilized ovum to reach and be implanted in the mother's womb;

"adolescent "means young people between the ages of ten to nineteen years who are in transition from childhood to adulthood;.

"basic emergency obstetric and newborn care "means lifesaving services for emergency maternal and newborn conditions or complications being provided by a health facility or professional to include the following services: administration of information shall not be made public and shall remain confidential;

"comprehensive emergency obstetric and newborn care" means lifesaving services for emergency maternal and newborn conditions/complications as in Basic Emergency Obstetric and Newborn Care plus the provision of surgical delivery (caesarian section) and blood bank services, and other highly specialized obstetric interventions. It also includes emergency neonatal care which includes at the minimum: newborn resuscitation. of treatment neonatal sepsis infection. and antenatal oxygen support, administration of (maternal) steroids for threatened premature delivery;

"County Executive Committee Member" means the County Executive Committee Member responsible for matters of reproductive health;

"Department" means the department established by the County Government which is responsible for reproductive health;

"dignity" means to be treated with respect, consideration and attentiveness;

"discrimination" includes any exclusion,

restriction or arbitrary distinctions;

"family planning "means a program which enables couples and individuals to decide freely and responsibly the number and spacing of their children and to have the information and means to do so, and to have access to a full range of safe, affordable, effective, non-abortifacient modem natural and artificial methods of planning pregnancy;

"fetal and infant death review" refers to a qualitative and in-depth study of the causes of fetal and infant death with the primary purpose of preventing future deaths through changes or additions to programs, plans and policies;

"gender equality" refers to the principle of equality between women and men and equal rights to enjoy conditions in realizing their full human potentials to contribute to,andbenefit from, the results of development, with the State recognizing that all human beings are free and equal in dignity and rights. It entails equality in opportunities, in the allocation of resources or benefits, or in access to services in furtherance of the rights to health and sustainable human development among others, withoutdiscrimination;

"gender equity" refers to the policies, instruments, programs and actions that address the disadvantaged position of women in society by providing preferential treatment and affirmative action. It entails fairness and justice in the

distribution of benefits and responsibilities between women and men, and often requires women-specific projects and programs to end existing inequalities:

Provided that this concept recognizes that while reproductive health involves women and men, it is more critical for women's health;

"gender perspective" means the beliefs, roles, values and behaviors that cultures and societies evolves for socialization OF men and women;

"informed consent" means the possibility and opportunity to make a responsible decision based on full information free from coercion or violence;

"male responsibility" refers to the involvement, commitment, accountability and responsibility of males in all areas of sexual health and reproductive health, as well as the care of reproductive health concerns specific to men;

"maternal death review" refers to a qualitative and in- depth study of the causes of maternal death with the primary purpose of preventing future deaths through changes or additions to programs, plans and policies;

"maternal health" refers to the health of a woman of reproductive age including, but not limited to, during pregnancy, childbirth and the postpartumperiod;

"modern methods of family planning" refers to safe, effective, non-abortifacient and legal methods, whether naturalor artificial, that are registered with the Department, to plan pregnancy;

"natural family planning" refers to a variety of methods used to plan or prevent pregnancy based on identifying the woman's fertile days;

"privacy" means to have a confidential environment during counseling and services;

"public health care service provider" refers to—

- (a) public health care institution, which is duly licensed and accredited and devoted primarily to the maintenance and operation of facilities for health promotion, disease prevention, diagnosis, treatment and care of individuals suffering from illness, disease, injury, disability or deformity, or in need of obstetrical or other medical and nursingcare;
- (b) public health care professional, who is a doctor of medicine, a nurse or amidwife;
- (c) public health worker engaged in the delivery of health care services; or
- (d) health worker who has undergone training programs under any accredited government

and non-governmental organization and who voluntarily renders primarily health care services in the community after having been accredited to function as such by the local health board in accordance with the guideline's promulgated by the Department ofHealth;

"poor" means member of a household identified as poor through any relevant system used by the national government in identifying the poor;

"reproductive health" means the state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity, in all matters relating to the reproductive system and to its functions and processes: this

### implies—

- (a) that people are able to have a responsible, safe, consensual and satisfying sex life, that they have the capability to reproduce and the freedom to decide if, when, and how often to do so; and
- (b) that women and men attain equal relationships in matters related to sexual relations andreproduction.

"reproductive health care" means the access to a full range of methods, facilities, services and supplies that contribute to reproductive health and well-being by addressing reproductive healthrelated problems and includes sexual health, the purpose of which is the enhancement of life and personalrelations.

"reproductive health care program" means the systematic and integrated provision of reproductive health care to all citizens prioritizing women, the poor, marginalized and those invulnerable or crisis situations;

"reproductive health rights" means the rights of individuals and couples, to decide freely and responsibly whether or not to have children; the number, spacing and timing of their children; to make other decisions concerning reproduction, free of discrimination, coercion and violence; to have the information and means to do so; and to attain the highest standard of sexual health and reproductivehealth:

Provided, however, that reproductive health rights do not include abortion, and access to abortifacients;

"reproductive health and sexuality education" means a lifelong learning process of providing and acquiring complete, accurate and relevant age- and development-appropriate information and education on reproductive health and sexuality through life skills education and other approaches;

"reproductive tract infection" means sexually transmitted infections and other types of infections affecting the reproductive system;

"responsible parenthood" means the will and ability of a

parent to respond to the needs and aspirations of the family and

children. It is likewise a shared responsibility between parents to determine and achieve the desired number of children, spacing and timing of their children according to their own family life aspirations, taking into account psychological preparedness, health status, sociocultural and economic concerns consistent with their religiousconvictions;

"sexual health" means a state of physical, mental and social well-being in relation to sexuality. It requires a positive and respectful approach to sexuality and sexual relationships, as well as the possibility of having pleasurable and safe sexual experiences, free from coercion, discrimination and violence;

"sexually transmitted infection" means any infection that may be acquired or passed on through sexual contact, use of IV, intravenous drug needles, childbirth and breastfeeding;

"skilled birth attendance" means childbirth managed by a skilled health professional including the enabling conditions of necessary equipment and support of a functioning health system, including transport and referral faculties for emergency obstetriccare; Guiding principles in the

**3.** This Act declares the following as guidingprinciples—

is central to the exercise of any right, shall not be subjected to any form of coercion and must be fully guaranteed by the State, like the right itself;

- (b) respect for protection and fulfillment of reproductive health and rights which seek to promote the rights and welfare of every person particularly couples, adult individuals, women and adolescents;
- (c) human resource is among the principal assets of the country, as such, effective and quality reproductive health care services must be given primacy to ensure maternal and child health, the health of the unborn, safe delivery and birth of healthy children, and sound replacement rate, in line with the State's duty to promote the right to health, responsible parenthood, social justice and full humandevelopment;
- (d) the provision of ethical and medically safe, accessible, affordable, legal, nonabortifacient, effective and quality reproductive health care services supplies is essential in the promotion of people's right to health, especially those of women, the poor, and the marginalized, and shall be incorporated as a component of basic healthcare;

(e) the County shall promote and provide information and access, without bias, to all methods of family planning, including effective natural and modern methods which have been proven medically safe, legal, non-abortifacient, and effective in accordance with scientific and evidence-based medical research standards such as those registered and approved for the poor and marginalized as identified through relevant agencies and other government measures of identifyingmarginalization:

Provided: that the County shall also provide funding support to promote modern natural methods of family planning, consistent with the needs of acceptors and their religious convictions;

### (f) the County shall promote programsthat—

(i) enable individuals and couples to have the number of children they desire with due consideration to the health, particularly of women, and the resources available and affordable to them and in accordance with existing laws, public morals and their religious convictions:

Provided: that no one shall be deprived, for economic reasons, of the rights to have children;

- (ii) achieve equitable allocation and utilization of resources;
- (iii) ensure effective partnership among national government, local government units and the private sector in the design, implementation, coordination, integration, monitoring and evaluation of people-centered programs to enhance the quality of life and environmental protection;
- (iv) conduct studies to analyze demographic trends including demographic dividends

from sound population policies towards sustainable human development in keeping with the principles of gender equality, protection of mothers and children, born and unborn and the promotion and protection of women's reproductive rights and health; and

- (v) conduct scientific studies to determine the safety and efficacy of alternative medicines and methods for reproductive health care development;
- (g) the provision of reproductive health care, information and supplies giving priority to poor beneficiaries as identified by the County or relevant State agency and other government measures of identifying marginalization must be the primary responsibility of

the national government consistent with its obligation to respect, protect and promote the right to health and the right to life;

- (h) the County shall respect individuals' preferences and choice of family planning methods that are in accordance with their religious convictions and cultural beliefs, taking into consideration the State's obligations under various human rightsinstruments;
- (i) active participation nongovernment by organizations, women's people's and organizations, civil faith-based society, organizations, the religious sector communities is crucial to ensure that reproductive health and population and development policies, plans, and programs will address the priority needs of women, the poor, and themarginalized;
- (i) while this Act recognizes that abortion is and punishable illegal by law, government shall ensure that all women needing care for post-abortive complications and all other complications arising from pregnancy, labor and delivery and related issues shall be treated and counseled in a humane, nonjudgmental and compassionate manner in accordance with law and medicalethics:

(k) each family shall have the right to determine its ideal familysize:

Provided, however, that the County shall equip each parent with the necessary information on all aspects of family life, including reproductive health and responsible parenthood, in order to make that determination;

- (l) there shall be no demographic or population targets and the mitigation, promotion and/or stabilization of the population growth rate is incidental to the advancement of reproductivehealth;
- (m)gender equality and women empowerment are central elements of reproductive health and

### population and development;

- (n) the resources of the country must be made to serve the entire population, especially the poor, and allocations thereof must be adequate and effective: *Provided*, That the life of the unborn isprotected;
- (o) development is a multi-faceted process that calls for the harmonization and integration of policies, plans, programs and projects that seek to uplift the quality of life of the

## PART II—PROMOTION OF REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

Accepting th shall be e need of

The need for reproductive healthcare accepted in orderto—

- reproductive healthcare
- (a) provide quality reproductive healthcare through short and long term efforts, among others, to professionalize obstetric care, emergency obstetric care and improve reproductive healthcare systems, particularly, in the primary health caresector;
- (b) reach the underserved by increasing access to the disadvantaged, hard to reach, and vulnerable including poor women and remote marginalized areas by strengthening primary health units in addition to other responsibilities, the provision of family planning maternal and neonatal healthcare;

### pregnancies; and

(ii) by observance of World Health
Organization standards of
antenatal and post natal care
thereby reducing incidences

Reproductive health

**5.** The facilitation of reproductive healthcare services shall focus on the following–

car e services.

- (a) the full range of services which address maternal mortality and morbidity shall beencouraged;
- (b) reproductive health system shall be strengthened so that the competencies of reproductive health providers ensure quality services which encourage choice and are given in an environment of dignity and continuity;
- (c) for access and affordability, focus and priority shall be given to the primary health caresector;
- (d) it shall be recognized that all persons shall have the benefit of and access to available reproductive healthcare technology, including that relating to infertility, which is safe and free from gender discrimination;

(h) no person shall be subjected to forced pregnancy ,

Duties an d Responsibiliti es.

- **6.** (1) The County Government department of health shall serve as the lead agency for the implementation of this Act and shall integrate in their regular operations the following functions—
  - (a) fully and efficiently implement the reproductive health careprogram;
  - (b) ensure people's access to medically safe, non- abortifacient, legal, quality and affordable reproductive health goods and services; and
  - (c) perform such other functions necessary to attain the purposes of thisAct.

### (2) The Department, shall—

- (a) strengthen the capacities of health regulatory agencies to ensure safe, high quality, accessible and affordable reproductive health services and commodities with the concurrent strengthening and enforcement of regulatory mandates and mechanisms:
- (b) facilitate the involvement and participation of Non- governmental organizations and the private sector in reproductive health care service delivery and in the production, distribution and delivery of quality reproductive health and family planning

keep the latter updated on current studies and researches

relating to family planning, responsible parenthood, breastfeeding and infant nutrition.

The Department shall issue strict guidelines with respect to the use of contraceptives, taking into consideration the side effects or other harmful effects of theiruse.

Certain facts on reproductive health care.

- **7.** The acceptance of the following facts is essential for the promotion of reproductive health care rights in the County—
  - (a) that men and women are subject of reproductive health care, their joint involvement in responsible parenting is essential;
  - (b) that access to information on reproductive health care is integral in ensuring realization of reproductive health carerights;
  - (c) male involvement is essential in the

Promotion of reproductive health car

e rights.

**8.** The County Government shall promoterightto reproductive healthcare—

- (a) by providing reproductive health care information which provides awareness regarding the mental and physical health and wellbeing of individuals and families;
- (b) through the exercises of parental responsibilities which assures the rights

Gender neutral **9.** The right to gender neutral information of

information.

reproductive healthcare shall be promoted by—

(a) access to information related to reproductive rights and responsibilities within a gender perspective which is free from stereotype, discrimination and retrogressive customs;

Promotion and protection of right toequality.

- (h) by recognition that all couples have the right to **10.** (1) A person shall not discriminate against any person in their reproductive lives, in their access to information or services on the grounds on race colour, sex, creed or any other criteria of discrimination.
- (2) All women have the right to protection from discrimination in social, domestic or employment spheres by reason of pregnancies ormotherhood.
- (3) All efforts shall be made to promote

# PART III—PROMOTION, FACILITATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH CARE SERVICES

Hiring o
f Skilled
Health
Professionals

11.(1) The county Government shall endeavor to hire an adequate number of nurses, midwives and other skilled health professionals for reproductive health care and skilled birth attendance to achieve an ideal skilled health professional-to- patient ratio.

geographically isolated or highly populated and depressed areas

are provided with the same level of access to health care:

Provided, that the Parliament and County Assembly shall provide additional and necessary funding and other necessary assistance for the effective implementation of this provision.

Health car e facilities.

(3) For the nurnoses of this Act midwives and

12. Each health facility, upon its determination of the necessity based on well-supported data provided by its county department of health, shall endeavor to establish or upgrade hospitals and facilities with adequate and qualified personnel, equipment and supplies to be able to provide emergency obstetric and newborn care:

Provided: that—

(a) people in geographically isolated or highly populated and depressed areas shall have the same level of access and shall not be neglected by providing other means such as

Elements

f
reproductive
health.

**13.** The elements of reproductive health care include the following—

(a) family planning information and services

highly improbable;

- (b) maternal, infant and child health and nutrition, including breastfeeding;
- (c) proscription of abortion and management of abortion complications;
- (d) adolescent and youth reproductive health guidance and counseling;
- (e) prevention, treatment and management of reproductive tract infections, HIV and AIDS and other sexually transmittable infections(STIs);
- (f) elimination of violence against women and children and other forms of sexual and gender-basedviolence;
- (g) education and counseling on sexuality and reproductive health;
- (h) treatment of breast and reproductive tract cancers and other gynecological conditions

PART IV— DEVELOPMENT OF APPROPRIATE REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH CARE EDUCATION

Education and development of school curriculums.

- **14.** (1) The County Government shall develop appropriate reproductive health education toadolescents.
- (2) The County Government shall through the relevant departments collect data and prepare reports to be submitted to the Ministry and Departments responsible for education to inform and enrich the school curriculums on reproductive

relevant subjects.

Content of the reproductive education.

- **15.** The reproductive health rightseducationshall included, but not limitedto—
- (a) valuesformation;
- (b) knowledge and skills in self-protection against discrimination;
- (c) sexual abuse and violence against women and children and other forms of gender based violence and teen pregnancy;

Consultation with stakeholders.

adoption of appropriate reproductive health rights course content, scope and methodology in each educational level or group shall be allowed only after consultations with parents-teachers-community associations school officials and other

Department of education.

17. The Department of Education in the County shall formulate a curriculum which shall be used by public schools and shall be adopted by

Public awareness.

- 18 (1) The County Government shall, through the relevant departments, initiate and sustain a heightened county- wide multimediacampaign to raise the level of public awareness on the protection and promotion of reproductive health and rights including, but not limited to,—
  - (a) maternal health and nutrition;
  - (b) family planning and responsible parenthood information and services;
  - (c) adolescent and youth reproductivehealth;
  - (d) guidance and counseling; and

ensure their effectiveness and relevance.

### PART V—SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE

Abolition of barriers to reproducti ve health for persons with disabilitie s.

19. The County Government shall abolish barriers to reproductive health services for persons with disabilitiesby—

- (a) providing physical access, and resolving transportation and proximity issues to clinics, hospitals and places where public health education is provided, contraceptives are sold or distributed or other places where reproductive health services areprovided;
- (b) adapting examination tables and other laboratory procedures to the needs and conditions of persons with disabilities;
- (c) increasing access to information and communication materials on sexual and reproductive health in braille, large print, simple language, sign language and pictures;
- (d) providing continuing education and inclusion of rights of persons with disabilities among health care providers; and
- (e) undertaking activities to raise awareness and address misconceptions among the general public on the

Prohibition of any form of discrimination

**20.** (1) A person shall not, in offering services or assistance, where reproductive health matters are concerned, discriminate, in any form or manner, against any person with disability.

PART VI—MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

Financial support.

**21.**(1) The County assemblyshall ensure that the

 $\ department of health is a dequately resourced to under take its$ 

mandate under this Act.

Development partners etc.

- (2) The relevant laws applicable in seeking
- **22.** The County Government may enter into agreements with any entity registered and recognized in Kenya in the interest of furthering the objective of thisAct.
  - (2) Where any development partner supports the County in the initiative under the Act such supportshall—
    - (a) be entered into in accordance with the relevant applicable laws; and

### Reporting Requirements

- **23.** (1) Before the end each financial year, the department of health shall submit to the Governor and the County Assembly an annual consolidated report, which shall provide a definitive and comprehensive assessment of the implementation of its programs on reproductivehealth.
- (2) The report referred to in sub section(1) shall include reports of other county government agencies and instrumentalities and recommend priorities for executive and legislative actions.
- (3) The report shall be printed and distributed to all relevant county government agencies, the local health facilities, non-governmental organizations and private sector organizations involved in reproductive healthprograms.
- (4) The annual report shall evaluate the content, implementation, and impact of all policies related to reproductive health and family planning to ensure that such policies promote, protect and fulfill women's reproductive health and rights.

Prohibited Acts.

**24.** (1) Any health care service provider, whether public or

private, who —

- (a) knowingly withhold information, restrict the disseminationthereof;
- (b) intentionally provide incorrect information regarding programs and services on reproductive health, including the right to informed choice and access to a full range of legal, medically- safe, non-abortifacient and effective family planningmethods;
- (c) refuses to perform legal and medicallysafe reproductive health procedures on any person of legal age on the ground of lack of consent or authorization;
- (d) refuses to extend quality health care services and information on account of the person's marital status, gender, age, religious convictions, personal circumstances, or nature ofwork:

Provided, That the conscientious objection of a health care service provider based on his/her ethical or religious beliefs shall be respected; however, the conscientious objector shall immediately refer the person seeking such care and services to another health care service provider within the same facility or one which is conveniently accessible,

to support reproductive health programs;

(h) does any act that hinders the full implementation of a reproductive health program as mandated by thisAct,

commits an offence and shall be liable upon conviction to imprisonment for a term not exceeding two years or a fine nor exceeding two million or to both.

### (3) Any employerwho—

- (a) suggests, requires, unduly influences or causes any applicant for employment or an employee to submit himself/herself to sterilization; or
- (b) use any modern methods of family planning, or not use such methods as a condition for employment, continued employment, promotion or the provision of employment benefits, commits an offence and shall upon conviction be liable to a fine not exceeding five million in the case of corporate entity and three million for individual employer.

### (4) Any employer shall not—

- (a) discriminate against a pregnant woman or a mother when offering employment opportunity to anyperson;
- (b) use the excuse of a pregnancy or the number of children a

ground for not hiring or terminating services or employment of anyperson.

- (5) A person who contravenes subsection (4) commits an offence and shall on conviction be liable to a fine not exceeding six million, in the case of corporate and three million for individual employer.
- (6) Any person who shall falsify a Certificate of Compliance issued under this Act commits anoffence.
- (7) Any pharmaceutical company, whether domestic or multinational, or its agents or distributors, which directly or indirectly colludes with national or county government officials, whether appointed or elected, in the distribution,

procurement or sale by the national government or County

Government modern family planning supplies, products and devices, commits an offence and shall be liable upon conviction summarily to a fine not

General penalty.

- 25. A person who contravenes any of the provisions of this Act to which no express penalty has been prescribed, commits an offence and shall, upon conviction, be liableto—
  - (a) imprisonment for a term not exceeding five yearsor a fine not exceeding five million; and
  - (b) if the offender is a public officer, elected or appointed, he or she shall also suffer the penalty of suspension not exceeding one year or removal and forfeiture of retirement benefits depending on the gravity of the offense after due notice and hearing by the appropriate body oragency;

Legal Liability

- (c) if an offender is an alien, after service of **26.** (1) A person who, has not obtained a relevant qualification certificate issued by the County Government, who—
  - (a) engages in pre-marital medical examination, genetic disease diagnosis, prenatal diagnosis or medical technical appraisement;

commits an offence and the administrative department of

public health shall stop such act and give a warning to or impose a fine upon him or her in light of the circumstances.

(2) A person who has not obtained relevant qualification certificate issued by the State or County performs operations for termination of gestation or terminates gestation by other means, thus causing death, disability, loss or basic loss of working ability, commits an offence and shall be investigated for criminal responsibility according to the provisions the existing CriminalLaws.

### (3) Wherepersonnel—

(a) engaged in the work of maternal and infant health care, in violation of the stipulations of thisAct;

### Consents. 27. For purposes of this Act consentincludes—

- (a) spousal consent in case of married persons: provided *t*hat, in case of disagreement, the decision of the one undergoing the procedure shall prevail; and
- (b) parental consent or that of the person exercising parental authority in the case of abused minors, where the parent or the person exercising parental authority is the respondent,

### procedures.

Emergen cy cases.

- **28.** (1) A hospitals, medical facility and medical clinics or any medical practitioner shall not refuse to offer emergency medical attention or to administer appropriate initial medical treatment and support in emergency and serious cases.
- (2) Consent shall not be required in any emergency or serious cases as is prescribed.

Regulation s.

**29.** County Executive Committee member may make regulations generally for the better carrying into effect the object and purpose of this Act.

### MEMORANDUM OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

The objective of this Bill is to give effect to relevant Articles of the Constitution which obligate the State, County Government and other State entities to provide eliminate discrimination against women or gender on any grounds including pregnancy, and to facilitate the realization of the Constitution dictate which provides that every person has a right to the highest attainable standard of health, including the right to health care services, including reproductive health care.

The Bill recognizes the right to make free and informed decisions relating to reproductive health, without any form of coercion.

The Bill further seeks to provide for respect for protection and fulfillment of reproductive health

The Bill further seeks to provide forethical and medically safe, legal, accessible, affordable, non-abortifacient, effective and quality reproductive health care services and supplies is essential in the promotion of people's right to health, especially those of women, the poor, and the marginalized, and shall be incorporated as a component of basic health care;

The Bill obligates the County Government to promote and provide information and access, without bias, to all methods of family planning, including effective natural and modern methods which have been proven medically safe, legal, non-abortifacient, and effective in accordance with scientific and evidence-based medical research standards such as those registered and approved for the poor and marginalized as identified through relevant agencies and other government measures of identifying marginalization.

**Part I** contains preliminary provisions.

**Part II** lays down the general principles of the Bill and lays a framework for the promotion of reproductive health rights within the County.

**Part III**contains provision on promotion, facilitation and implementation of reproductive health rights within the county.

**Part IV** contains provisions relating to promotion of appropriate reproductive health care education, training and creation of public awareness within the county in so far as reproductive health care rights and issues are concerned.

**Part V** contains provisions on sexual and reproductive health programs to persons with disabilities the part further provides for the necessity to provide proper health care to all. The Bill requires all public health facilities and other facilities employ and retain qualified medical practitioners.

Part VI contains miscellaneous provisions.

The Bill delegates the power to make regulations to the County Executive Committee Member power to make regulations for the better carrying into effect the objects and purpose of the Act.

### Statement on the Constitutionality of the Bill:

The Bill is constitutional and provides for matters within the competencies of Tharaka Nithi County. It recognizes the policy and constitutional obligation of the State and the National Government. It seeks to provide maternal health care support structure that respects the devolved governance system. It also provides for a framework for cooperation and reciprocity where necessary in the implementation of the Act.

This Bill does concern Tharaka Nithi County Government and is within the County Government jurisdiction set out in Part 2 of the Fourth Schedule to the Constitution.

Dated	, 2020.
•••	

#### HON. NJERU CHARLES NYAGA

Chairperson Committee on Health Services