



Minnesota Coalition
FOR FAMILY HOME VISITING

April 14, 2023

Senator John Marty
Chair, Finance Committee
Room 1200, Minnesota Senate Building
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Marty and Members of the Committee:

Minnesota's Coalition for Family Home Visiting (MCFHV) writes in support of the SF 2995. There are several policies and programs that support maternal and child health and position young families for long-term sustainability. While the Coalition doesn't generally take positions on child care, we believe these important investments will increase access to families who will find stability as they work to address other needs of their life. Additionally, these child care investments will support the care givers, who are often young mothers and women.

We'd like to highlight support for the following key provisions:

- **Family Home Visiting** Article 19 Sec. 3, Subd. 2 (j) Line 604.30

Voluntary family home visiting services have proven successful in stabilizing families and improving health outcomes for families and young children. Using a two-generation approach, home visiting connects families to critical community resources and services that are culturally appropriate and responsive to the needs of all families in Minnesota.

- **Doula Services** Article 1 Sec. 17, Subd. 28b & Line 20.23; Sec. 33 & Line 51.22

Doulas are proven to lower racial disparities in healthcare by improving health outcomes, increasing breastfeeding rates, reducing childbirth complications, and reestablishing the relationship between historically marginalized communities and the medical establishment. Both provisions will help reduce barriers to serving families on Medicaid and improve birth outcomes.

- **Community Solutions for Health Child Development** Article 13 Sec.18 & Line 463.18

Funding these programs long-term will help Minnesota's state and community leaders work together to best meet the unique challenges that exist within communities of color and Indigenous communities.

- **Healthy Beginnings, Healthy Families** Article 4 Sec. 67 & Line 207.10

Funding Healthy Beginning, Healthy Families Program will keep justice-involved parents involved in the growth and development of their young children and provides re-entry support for parents returning to the community and increased family stability. Continued parent involvement improves parent-child attachment and reduces recidivism.

- **Maternal and Child Health Equity** Article 4 Sec. 39; Sec. 81

Funding the **Supporting Healthy Development of Babies Grant Program** (Article 4 Sec. 39) and the **Equitable Health Care Task Force** (Article 4 Sec. 81) work to reduce health inequities for birthing persons and children.

- **Children’s Mental Health Supports** Article 19 Sec. 2, Subd. 28 & Line 602.22

We support increased access to infant and early childhood consultation services. These programs and resources help families mitigate mental health challenges for our youngest children and provide those working with families and young children with the skills and tools to provide ongoing supports. Please consider adding policies changes that would allow for increased access in currently funded programs and consider funding to keep families intact.

- **Early Childhood Family Educators (ECFE)**

Expanding state support for ECFE will help coordinate services across local school districts assist and help ensure quality in services to families.

- **Lead Remediation in Schools & Child Care** Article 19 Sec. 3, Subd. 2 & Line 614.14

Mitigating lead exposure is essential in settings with young children because no amount of lead is safe for babies and young children.

- **Help Me Connect** Article 19 Sec. 3 Subd. 2 (i) Line 604.25

Help Me Connect is an important public resource for families and providers working with young children. We support this ongoing investment because it helps families access resources and referrals to programs and services.

Thank you,

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