



January 23, 2023

Senator Erin Murphy
Chair, State and Local Government and Veterans Committee
1200 Minnesota Senate Building
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Murphy and Members of the Committee:

Minnesota's Prenatal to Three Coalition (PN-3) is excited to support Paid Family & Medical Leave, SF 2, as a significant investment in Minnesota's youngest children, their families, their employers, and communities in general. We believe public investments aimed at supporting healthy attachment, growth, development, and learning will positively position children and families for a lifetime of prosperity.

Paid family & medical leave is a win/win for parents and businesses as parents are more likely to return to work when paid leave is available. Longer leave, which is more likely if paid, following the birth of a child results in increased rates of breastfeeding, improved maternal physical and mental health, and improved health and access to health care for the baby. For new parents, paid leave increases the time they have to develop strong bonds with their baby and adjust to caring for the new child. This bond is the foundation of all future child development.

Having access to paid family leave during the perinatal health period can help make the postpartum period easier. New parents may be dealing with a host of medical conditions after birth, such as complications from childbirth, pain, depression, or anxiety, all while caring for a newborn. When parents don't have access to paid leave, they need to choose their health and/or the health of their child over their financial health.

The PN-3 Coalition believes the time is right to spend surplus resources to establish this fund and make it available to Minnesota families. Please join us in supporting SF 2 to help families get back on track and move forward with a strong, stable start in life.

Thank you,

Nancy Jost,
West Central Initiative MN,
Co-Chair

Laura LaCroix-Dalluhn,
Prenatal to Three (PN-3) Coalition,
Coalition Coordinator

Deb Fitzpatrick,
Children's Defense Fund,
Co-Chair