



January 23, 2023

Senator Melissa Wiklund
Chair, Health and Human Services Finance and Policy Committee
1100 Senate Building
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Wiklund 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.

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. Paid leave provides critical time with newborns and newly adopted children and helps secure attachment and bonds between caregivers and child.

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,
Co-Chair

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

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