



February 7, 2023

Senator Melissa Wiklund
Chair, Health and Human Services Committee
1200 Minnesota 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 the right for a pregnant patient to have a designated support person present while receiving health care, SF 406, as a significant way to acknowledge and address maternal health inequities in Minnesota.

The Minnesota Department of Health released its first Maternal Mortality report that highlighted disparate health outcomes for Black and Indigenous Minnesotans. Black birthing people are more than twice as likely to die due to pregnancy complications and Black babies are more than twice as likely to die before their first birthday. The right for a pregnant patient to have a designated support present to assist with comfort, care and advocacy while receiving health care is necessary to protect Black women who face different odds and safely deliver their baby.

This voluntary option for pregnant patients to have a support person allows everybody to feel safer and more comfortable during the pregnancy and perinatal process. The PN-3 Coalition believes all pregnant people in Minnesota deserve to feel supported during their prenatal care. Please join us in supporting SF 406 to help all pregnant people have healthy pregnancies, positive birth outcomes, and healthy babies.

Thank you,

Nancy Jost,
West Central Initiative MN,
Co-Chair

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

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