



February 13, 2023

Chair Melissa Wiklund
Senate Health and Human Services Committee
1100 Senate Building
95 University Ave W
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Wiklund and Health and Human Services Committee Members:

Minnesota's Prenatal to Three Coalition (PN-3) writes today to urge you to support the Community Solutions for Healthy Child Development Grant Program outlined in SF 402. We believe the Community Solutions Grant Program is an important way to recognize that communities of color, American Indian communities, and geographically dispersed communities have invaluable knowledge, and must be active and valued participants within the creation of solutions for themselves.

The pilot Community Solutions for Health Child Development Grant Program is showing significant progress in working within communities to address health and wellness gaps. Strategies and programs to address perinatal health, child well-being and community connections among children and families are essential to positioning each family for stability and success. 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.

It is essential we build solutions that are culturally appropriate and responsive. We believe community driven solutions are essential to identifying innovative strategies for addressing historical challenges and trauma in communities of color and American Indian communities.

The PN-3 Coalition believes the time is right to create a permanent Community Solutions for Health Child Development Fund. Please join us in supporting SF 402 to help communities and give their babies and young children a strong, stable start in life.

Thank you,

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

Nancy Jost,
West Central Initiative,
Co-Chair

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