



February 15, 2022

Senator Melissa Wiklund  
Chair, Health and Human Services  
1100 Senate Building  
95 University Ave W,  
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Wiklund and Members of the Committee:

Minnesota's Prenatal to Three Coalition (PN-3) writes in support of SF 531 to provide continuous medical assistance eligibility for children up to age six. The PN-3 Coalition is excited to see significant efforts to invest in Minnesota's youngest children, their families, and their caregivers. We believe public investments aimed at supporting healthy growth, development and learning positively position children and families for a lifetime of prosperity.

Over 80% of brain development occurs before the age of six and this growth and development is the foundation for all future physical, cognitive and emotional learning. Consistent access to healthcare allows for more predictable and better quality of care that improves lifelong health outcomes, mitigates developmental delays, supports health equity and lowers the burden on families to reapply for health insurance.

Without access to healthcare during the first six years of life, children are unable to receive check-ups, early developmental screenings or engage in early interventions services needed to address health concerns or correct developmental delays. Continuous eligibility for children is needed to improve long-term health outcomes and mitigate the more expensive costs associated with unknown or untreated health concerns.

This policy ensures babies and young children already enrolled in Medicaid will maintain consistent and predictable access to healthcare during these critical years. Please join us in supporting SF 531 to ensure that Minnesota's youngest children have a strong 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