



March 7, 2023

Senator Melissa Wiklund
Chair, Health & Human Services Committee
1100 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 write in support of SF 1274 to renew funding for Wilder Foundation's African American Babies Coalition and Projects. The PN-3 Coalition believes investments in communities of color will support all Minnesota's children, their families, and their caregivers. We believe public investments in the African American Babies Coalition and Projects is integral in delivering meaningful training and resources to support healthy Black pregnancies and empower families throughout the perinatal period, which begins prenatally through the postpartum period.

Culturally responsive strategies and programs are needed to address maternal health disparities and improve birthing health outcomes in Black communities to ensure all Minnesota babies and families have a chance at a strong start at life, regardless of race. Ongoing funding would increase the reach of the African American Babies Coalition and Projects to promote healthy growth, development and learning to positively position Black children and families for a lifetime of prosperity. We believe it is essential to support culturally appropriate and responsive programs to meet the unique challenges that exist within Minnesota's communities of color.

Please join us in supporting SF 1274 to ensure Black babies and families in Minnesota have access to 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