



**Minnesota Coalition**  
FOR FAMILY HOME VISITING

March 15, 2023

Senator Melissa H. Wiklund  
Chair, Education Finance Committee  
1100 Minnesota Senate Building  
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Wiklund and Members of the Committee:

Minnesota's Coalition for Family Home Visiting (MCFHV) writes in support of SF 579, to support lead testing in schools to ensure all children have access to safe drinking water in Minnesota and safe learning environments. The MCFHV is excited to see significant investments in the health and wellbeing of Minnesota's youngest children, pregnant people, and their families. We believe public investments aimed at supporting healthy environments will positively position young children and families for a lifetime of development and prosperity.

No amount of lead is safe, but babies and young children are most at risk of adverse health outcomes. According to the Minnesota Department of Health, the effects of lead exposure in children are exponentially consequential as prenatal and early childhood lead exposure increases the odds of permanently impaired growth and development. The CDC has found that even low levels of lead in children may result in impaired growth, cognitive and learning disabilities, hearing problems, nerve damage, blood diseases, and other severe health outcomes.

The Minnesota Coalition for Family Home Visiting urges you to support SF 579 to address this critical issue of healthy child growth and development. It is time to invest in the water quality of Minnesota to ensure all children have a strong start in life.

Thank you,

Laura LaCroix-Dalluhn,  
Minnesota Coalition for Family Home Visiting  
Projects Coordinator

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Minnesota Coalition for Family Home Visiting  
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