

March 21, 2023

Representative / Senator  
Chair, Committee  
State Office Building / Minnesota Senate Building  
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee:

Jonker Chiropractic is excited to support HF 2846 / SF 2923, to increase the medical assistance reimbursement rates for doula services. Investing in doula services is an important strategy to improve equity in Minnesota's maternal and child health outcomes.

In 2022, 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. Culturally congruent and community-based doulas are proven to lower racial disparities in healthcare by improving health outcomes, increasing breastfeeding rates, reducing childbirth complications, and reestablishing the relationship between historically marginalized communities and the medical establishment.

Investing in the comfort, care and advocacy of birthing people is necessary to protect Black women who face difficult odds to safely deliver their babies. Increasing reimbursement rates for doula services will allow care providers of this historically significant profession to make a dignified living and improve racial equity and health outcomes for all birthing people.

We can't address all negative effects of the historical trauma linked to the medical establishment, but we can do more to support American Indian women to have healthy pregnancies and babies. Jonker Chiropractic believes all pregnant people in Minnesota deserve to feel supported during their perinatal care. Please join us in supporting HF 2846 / SF 2923 to support the workforce promoting healthy pregnancies, positive birth outcomes, and healthy babies.

Thank you,

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