



Minnesota Coalition
FOR FAMILY HOME VISITING

March 20, 2023

Senator Melissa Wiklund
Chair, Health & Human Services Committee
Room 1100, Senate Office 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 2995, to fully fund the programs that support Minnesota's families. The MCFHV is excited to see significant investments in the health and wellbeing of Minnesota's pregnant people, families, and children. We believe public investments aimed at supporting healthy environments will positively position families and children for a lifetime of positive development and prosperity.

Please consider the importance of following programs and provisions and support SF 2995:

Home Visiting [145.87] Article 1. Sec. 2 Subd. 2 (o). Line 7.15

Voluntary family home visiting services, whether short term, mid-term or long-term, have proven successful in stabilizing families and improving health outcomes for families and young children. Short term home visiting programs can reduce long-term health care costs and connect families to child care, early learning programs and other key community programs when needed. Using a two-generation approach, home visiting connects families to critical community resources and services that are culturally appropriate and responsive to the needs of all families in Minnesota.

Community Solutions for Health Child Development Grant Program [145.9257] Article 1. Sec. 2 Subd. 2 (i). Line 5.5
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.

Healthy Beginnings, Healthy Families [145.9571] Article 1. Sec. 2 Subd. 2 (m). Line 6.28

Every family deserves a healthy start, regardless of their parent's involvement with the justice system. The benefits of keeping babies with their parents include improved parent-child attachment, reduced recidivism, re-entry support for parents returning to the community and increased family stability. Funding Healthy Beginning, Healthy Families Program will keep justice-involved parents involved in the growth and development of their young children.

Help me Connect [145.988] Article 1. Sec. 2 Subd. 2 (n). Line 7.10

Investing in collaboration across jurisdiction helps parents and families navigate the early childhood health care system and connect with practitioners and programs to support the healthy growth and development of their young children.

Lead Remediation in Schools & Child Care Settings [145.9272] Article 1. Sec. 2. Subd. 3 (d). Line 14.11

Lead exposure in young children exponentially increases their 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. Lead remediation is necessary for all care and learning environments because no amount of lead is safe for babies and young children.

Thank you,

Laura LaCroix-Dalluhn,
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Coordinator

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