



March 22, 2023

Senator Melissa H. Wiklund
Chair, Health and 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 support SF 2966, the Governor's proposed investments in the Department of Human Services, as an investment in children and families. Families are struggling to meet daily expenses and challenges, and many of the investments in SF 2966 will help families with young children get a strong, stable start. The PN-3 Coalition would like to highlight key provisions that are necessary to improve the health and wellbeing of young children, birthing people, and families.

Child Care Article 1. Beginning on Line 2.22

The staffing, funding, and capacity issues in the early childhood field has negatively impacted the industry most families rely on for their children's early care and education. This investment in the early childhood workforce will help stabilize the field by improving recruitment, education and retention strategies to equitably support those providing critical care and education to Minnesota's youngest learners.

Direct Reimbursement for Doula Services [148.995] Article 8. Sec. 13. Line 150.14

As advocates and birthing educators, doulas should have the ability to bill directly for their services. By supporting doulas to be directly reimbursed for their services, they will be able to overcome the many barriers that come with the supervisor requirement.

The PN-3 Coalition believes all young children and families in Minnesota should have a Great Start in life, regardless of income level. Please support SF 2229 to ensure more children have access to the care and learning programs they need to be successful in school and in life. Increasing funding to high quality maternal and child health programs will increase access for more children and their families to be positively positioned for lifetime of success.

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