



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 2995, to invest in Minnesota's children and families. Families are struggling to meet daily expenses and challenges, many of the investments in SF 2995 will help families with young children have a great start, regardless of race, zip code or income level. 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.

Community Solutions for Health Child Development Grant Program [145.9257] Article 1. Sec. 2 Subd. 2. Line 5.5
Allowing communities of color and communities experiencing geographic inequities to identify their needs and challenges related to maternal and child health provides opportunities to develop locally driven solutions to help address maternal and child inequities.

Healthy Beginnings, Healthy Families [145.9571] Article 1. Sec. 2 Subd. 2. Line 6.28
Expanding the Healthy Start Act to county jails improves the health outcomes of justice involved families and helps stabilize and improves parent-child attachment.

Help me Connect [145.988] Article 1. Sec. 2 Subd. 2. Line 7.10
Investing in the coordination between federal, state, and local health agencies will help parents and families navigate the early childhood health care system and connect with the programs and resources needed to address health disparities that disproportionately impact communities of color.

Home Visiting [145.87] Article 1. Sec. 2 Subd. 2. Line 7.15
Funding voluntary promising practices and evidence-based home visiting programs improves maternal and child outcomes, addresses the mental health needs of both parents and their children whilst providing housing, food, and employment support. Increasing access to culturally responsive care and information improves the continuity of care for pregnant people and their young children.

988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline [145.561] Article 2. Sec 67. Subd. 67. Line 98.15
Expanding the capacity of Minnesota's crisis response is critical to meet the mental health needs of our communities and will increase factors that promote resilience by increasing access to immediate care and mental health support.

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. Please join us in supporting SF 2995 to help families get back on track and move forward with a strong, stable 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