



**Minnesota Coalition**  
FOR FAMILY HOME VISITING

March 29, 2022

Senator Melissa Wiklund  
Chair, Health and Human Services  
Room 1100, 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 49 DE1 because we believe it will improve affordability and access to healthcare to families with young children. Thank you for prioritizing the health and wellbeing of Minnesota's children in this bill. The MCFHV believes public investments aimed at supporting healthy growth and development will positively position children and families for a lifetime of prosperity.

We are particularly pleased to support the following provisions in SF 49 DE1:

**Continuous Coverage for Children 0-6** Article 1. Sec. 5. Subd. 7 & Line 4.8

The first six years of a child's life are the most critical developmentally with over 80% of the brain being developed before a child's sixth birthday. Consistent and reliable access to healthcare is necessary for a more predictable and better quality of care. Access to healthcare early in life is shown to improve lifelong health outcomes, mitigate developmental delays, supports health equity by lowering the burden on families to reapply for health insurance. This provision ensures babies and young children already enrolled in Medicaid will continue to have consistent and predictable healthcare to receive check-ups, early developmental screenings and engage in early interventions services needed to address health concerns or correct developmental delays.

**Medicaid 12-month Eligibility for Children 6-21** Article 1. Sec. 5. Subd. 7 & Line 4.6

Children represent the largest population on Medicaid. We believe providing 12-month eligibility, ages six through twenty-one, will help ensure children and their families will address health needs early. These changes will also help families plan for their health needs and avoid being dropped due to "funding cliffs", which keep families from accepting seasonal bonuses, small raises, and from being dropped unnecessarily due to administrative errors.

Please join us in supporting SF 49 DE1 to support families by ensuring Minnesota's children have the healthcare they need to have a strong start in life.

Thank you,

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Coordinator

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Minnesota Coalition for Family Home Visiting  
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