



February 17, 2023

Senator John Hoffman
Chair, Human Services Committee
1200 Senate Building
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Hoffman and Members of the Committee:

Minnesota's Prenatal to Three Coalition (PN-3) is excited to support Paid Family & Medical Leave, SF 2, as a significant investment in Minnesota's youngest children, their families, their employers, and communities in general. We believe public investments aimed at supporting healthy attachment, growth, development, and learning will positively position children and families for a lifetime of prosperity.

Having access to paid family leave during the perinatal health period can help make the postpartum period easier. New parents may be dealing with a host of medical conditions after birth, such as complications from childbirth, pain, depression, or anxiety, all while caring for a newborn. When parents don't have access to paid leave, they need to choose their health and/or the health of their child over their financial health.

Paid Family & Medical Leave provides parents with the opportunity to bond with newborns and newly adopted children, secure attachment between parents and their children. This bond is the foundation of all future child development. Longer leave, which is more likely if paid, following the birth of a child results in increased rates of breastfeeding, improved maternal physical and mental health, and improved health and access to health care for their baby.

Paid Family Leave is also a win/win for parents, children, and businesses. Paid leave improves worker recruitment, retention, and productivity, saving employers money through reduced turnover costs. Paid leave allows smaller businesses to compete better with larger businesses and increases the likelihood parents will return to work after the birth or adoption of a child.

The PN-3 Coalition believes the time is right to spend surplus resources to establish this fund and make it available to Minnesota families. Please join us in supporting SF 2 to help families get back on track and move forward with a strong, stable start in life.

Thank you,

Nancy Jost,
West Central Initiative
Co-Chair

Laura LaCroix-Dalluhn,
MN Prenatal to Three (PN-3) Coalition,
Coalition Coordinator

Deb Fitzpatrick,
Children's Defense Fund - MN
Co-Chair