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February 27, 2023

Chair McEwen, Health and Human Services Committee
1200 Senate Building
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair McEwen and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Wilder Foundation African American Babies Coalition and Projects (AABC), I am writing in support of SF1018 Labor Standards and Women's Economic Securities Act Policy. The provisions in this bill establish necessary fundamental standards for unpaid leave, pregnancy and nursing accommodations. We believe the passage of this bill is timely to address infant mortality and toxic stress on the job for nursing and expected mothers. Having a time limit on how long a parent can attend to breastfeeding needs at work can have a negative effect on parent and child health.

The African American Babies Coalition and Projects (AABC) is a group of African American community stakeholders including educators, nonprofit and civic leaders, researchers, childcare providers, parents and grandparents, and public health professionals from across the Twin Cities who are committed to promoting the healthy development of African American babies. This bill will provide what should be fundamental rights for mothers to be able, without worry of losing their job to nurse and feed children. This is basic health and welfare to people across Minnesota. No mother should have to choose between breastfeeding and putting baby on the bottle when research has shown that breast feeding is better.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Keisha Mitchell

Program Manager, Wilder African American Babies Coalition and Projects (AABC)

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