



18 March 2024

Senator Wicklund
Chair, Health and Human Services Committee
Minnesota State Capitol, G-15

Dear Chair Wicklund and Members of the Health and Human Services Committee,

The Birth Justice Collaborative is writing to request your support of SF 3511, a bill to address the inequities in Minnesota’s maternal health and birth outcomes by requiring health plans cover prenatal, maternity, and postnatal care.

SF 3511 would eliminate cost sharing on prenatal and post-delivery care—including well-child visits—to eliminate the financial barrier inhibiting pregnant people and families from accessing this critical healthcare to support the healthy growth and development of newborns and young children.

No parent should be forced to decide whether to receive healthcare or stay with their newborn. SF 3511 would require that family members stay together while accessing care; if a child or their caregiver is transferred to another hospital to receive care, this bill would allow for the entire family unit to be transferred together. Family preservation is paramount during the perinatal period, not only for the healthy brain development of newborns and young children, but for a strong parent-child bond that is linked to improved caregiver stress levels, breastfeeding and maternal health outcomes.

The Birth Justice Collaborative urges you to join us in supporting SF 3511, to ensure pregnant people and their newborns have access to healthcare during the perinatal period, without fear of family separation or the stress brought on by medical debt.

Thank you,

The Birth Justice Collaborative of Hennepin County

Cultural Wellness Center,

Division of Indian Work,

Minnesota Indian Women’s Resource Center,

Native American Community Clinic,

Liberty Northside Healing Space

University of Minnesota Robert J. Jones Urban Research and Outreach Engagement Center.