

March 25, 2024

Health and Human Services Committee Minnesota Senate Building
95 University Ave, St Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Wiklund and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to kindly ask for your full support of SF 1303, to start a pregnancy monitoring pilot program in the state of Minnesota.

This is very personal to me and my wife. On November 2, 2014, we woke up in the morning excited to spend our last day as a family of three. Me, my wife, and our oldest son Rogen planned to go to the park, relax, barbeque at night, and get a good night sleep. My wife was exactly 39 weeks pregnant. Her C-section was scheduled for the following morning, and we were so excited to meet our second child.

That afternoon, my wife told me she hadn't felt the baby move since earlier that morning, so I called the hospital. They assured me that everything was probably fine but said we should come in for monitoring and peace of mind. When we got there, we heard the words no parent wants to hear: "I'm so sorry but there's not heartbeat."

Reese Christine Duffy was born on November 2, 2014 at 4:47 p.m. with the umbilical cord wrapped tightly around her neck twice, cutting off her life line. She was perfectly healthy, and could've been saved if we were educated about tracking her movements.

Please fund this important pilot program to educate expectant parents about the importance of fetal movement monitoring, and let's help families bring their babies home safely from the hospital.

On behalf of hopeful, expectant and growing families in Minnesota, thank you for acting with urgency and empathy on this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Duffy". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Chris" and last name "Duffy" clearly distinguishable.

Chris Duffy
New Brighton, MN