

March 22, 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 ask for your full support of SF 1303, to start a Count the Kicks pilot program in the state of Minnesota.

This is very personal to me. My son Elijah was stillborn on his due date, July 2nd, 2018. Until I learned my son had died inside of me, all indications showed it was a healthy pregnancy. His death and subsequent birth were a complete shock and have forever changed the life of our family. I learned months later that Elijah was healthy, but he died because he outgrew his very small placenta. Adding to the devastation and painful “what ifs” was when I learned after Elijah’s death about the importance of fetal movement monitoring. During my pregnancy with Elijah I was ignorant; I was never taught or encouraged to monitor his movements. I will *always wonder* if this crucial information might have alerted me to his distress in time to seek out help from my medical team and perhaps save my son’s life. In a later pregnancy two years later, I was trained to monitor my baby’s movements, and I was immensely grateful for the reassurance and connection this provided with my baby.

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 & growing families in Minnesota, thank you for acting urgently on this matter!

Sincerely,

Ann O'Neill

Dr. Ann O'Neill  
Shoreview, Minnesota

