

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 from St. Paul, Minnesota, to respectfully ask you to support stillbirth prevention in the state of Minnesota. SF 1303 would provide a grant specifically for materials that educate expectant patients and their providers on the importance of consistently tracking fetal movement in the third trimester.

Stillbirth prevention is important to me because on March 15, 2021, our daughter Blair Evelyn Kennedy was born at M Health Fairview Southdale Hospital in Edina, MN. Her birth came after 72 hours of labor that was spent knowing our baby had died. In her third trimester, Ashlie specifically asked her provider if she should be tracking movements and her provider said it was not necessary. At 30 weeks, Ashlie stopped feeling Blair move and when she went into the hospital we were told the words that forever changed our lives, "I'm sorry, there is no heartbeat." If we had known that tracking fetal movements during those precious days and hours before her passing may have saved her life, then Blair may have been born healthy and alive. Since we do not know Blair's cause of death, we ask ourselves "what if" every single day. As Blair's parents, we mourn her passing every moment of every day. We also mourn for her sisters who never got to meet Blair and will forever only know their baby sister as an angel in heaven.



We were honored to share Blair's story as we advocated for parents of stillborn babies to receive Paid Family and Medical Leave. We share her story again to advocate for funding for stillbirth prevention efforts so parents are able to take Paid Family and Medical leave to care for their living baby, not recover from and mourn the loss of their baby who died. SF1303 can save lives. Please pass this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Ashlie and John Kennedy
Blair's mom and dad

