

March 25, 2024
Health and Human Services Committee
Minnesota Senate Building
95 University Ave, Saint Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Wiklund and Committee Members,

I am writing in support of SF 1303, the pilot program to prevent stillbirth through fetal movement tracking.

This bill could not be more personal. My son Jude was stillborn on May 21, 2019 after a healthy low-risk pregnancy. I will carry guilt for the rest of my life that I failed my baby, and grief that our medical system failed us both. I was not properly educated in monitoring fetal movement, and that a decrease in movement is an urgent matter in late pregnancy. At 32 weeks and 2 days pregnant, while getting ready for my day, I noticed I had not felt my baby move since the night before. I waited 8-9 hours before going to a hospital to get checked. By that point, it was too late. Our son had died. If I had known to monitor his movements, and seek care upon noticing a change, I would have gone in sooner. For many mothers, speaking up when they noticed a change in movement has resulted in an emergency delivery and saving their baby's life. Many stillbirths are preventable. I believe mine was, but I was not empowered with the knowledge necessary to save my baby. We can do better in Minnesota. Count the Kicks has reduced Iowa's stillbirth rate by 30%.



I implore you to support this important bill and help other Minnesota families avoid the heartbreak of losing their baby to a preventable stillbirth.

Thank you,

Margaret Citta
Saint Paul, Minnesota