



March 22, 2024

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

Dear Chair Wiklund,

We are writing to you to ask you to urgently prioritize stillbirth prevention and support SF 1303 to bring a Count the Kicks pilot program to Minnesota.¹ We represent two stillbirth prevention organizations working on the front lines to end preventable stillbirth in the United States.

According to the CDC, **23,000 babies are stillborn every year** in the US, and Black families are more than twice as likely to suffer a stillbirth. **More children are stillborn than die from prematurity, SIDS, car accidents, drowning, guns, fire, flu, poison, and listeria COMBINED²— a silent epidemic.** Research shows that **more than 25% of these stillbirths are preventable, and 47% at term.**³ Unlike other countries where the stillbirth rate has declined (including the UK, Japan and Australia), the stillbirth rate in the US has plateaued. Every single day 65 US families leave the hospital with an empty car seat instead of their baby.

Together, we can change this. **You can help.** Meaningful change can come from simple but important pieces of legislation like SF 1303. **55% of women who had a stillbirth noticed their baby's movements had changed.**⁴ Expectant parents need to be educated on the importance of knowing their baby's movement pattern and providers need clear guidelines on how to respond to concerns.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ann O'Neill".

Dr. Ann O'Neill

Director, Measure the Placenta
www.measuretheplacenta.org

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "S Banerjee".

Samantha Banerjee

Executive Director, PUSH for Empowered Pregnancy
www.pushpregnancy.org

¹ Her Child Was Stillborn at 39 Weeks. She Blames a System That Doesn't Always Listen to Mothers. by Duaa Eldeib propublica.org/article/stillbirths-prevention-infant-mortality

² CDC Wonder "Fetal Deaths 2018" & "Underlying Cause of Death 2018," National Vital Statistics System (NVSS) Report: "Deaths: Leading Causes for 2018"

³ Page, Jessica M., et al. "Potentially preventable stillbirth in a diverse US cohort." *Obstet Gynecol* 131.2 (2018): 336-343. See Table 1

⁴ Efkarpidis S, Alexopoulos E, Kean L, Liu D, Fay T. Case-control study of factors associated with intrauterine fetal deaths. *MedGenMed*. 2004 May 27;6(2):53. PMID: 15266278; PMCID: PMC1395755.