

March 24, 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 New Brighton, MN to respectfully ask you to support stillbirth prevention in the state of Minnesota. SF 1303 would provide a grant specifically for materials through a program called Count the Kicks that educates expectant patients and their providers on the importance of consistently tracking fetal movement in the third trimester.

Stillbirth prevention is important to me because this preventable tragedy has impacted several of my dearest friends and family members. These unexpected losses have led to profound grief, sadness, and depression. Preventing stillbirth saves lives and reduces emotional burden on affected families. The education, tools, and training that this legislation would empower expecting families to effectively monitor the health and well-being of their child.

Investing in stillbirth prevention can foster research and innovation in maternal and fetal health. This deeply personal issue requires attention from healthcare providers, policymakers like yourself, and society as a whole. Lastly, the economic impact that stillbirth has on the state is noteworthy. Loss of wages, funeral costs, mental health appointments, additional postnatal appointments to name a few. Not only is this legislation helping to prevent the unnecessary death of very wanted and loved babies, it is also costing the state millions of dollars each year in bereavement care and pregnancy after loss care.

Sincerely,

*Will Ruckel*

Will Ruckel