



7 April 2024

Senator Wiklund
Chair, Health and Human Services Committee
MN Senate Building, Room 2107
95 University Ave W
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Wiklund and Members of the Committee,

The Birth Justice Collaborative requests your support of SF 4992, a bill to administer a planning grant to create an American Indian focused birth center to improve access to culturally centered prenatal, delivery, and postpartum care.

A disproportionate percentage of American Indian birthing people in Minnesota are unable to access culturally centered or culturally congruent perinatal care, resulting in increased preterm and cesarean births, maternal mortality, and postpartum complications for both the mother and her baby. Studies have shown that increasing access to culturally responsive care interrupts the racial disparities in birth outcomes, at the point of care. The creation of a replicable American Indian birth center empowers the American Indian community to create a dignified setting that centers their cultural needs and promotes traditional healing and wellness.

The Birth Justice Collaborative urges you to join us in supporting HF SF 4992, to begin the planning of an American Indian birth center in Minnesota, to empower indigenous communities and positively position them to support healthy pregnancies and deliveries in their community.

Please contact Corenia Smith at corenia@collectiveactionlab.com with any questions, concerns, or for more information about the Birth Justice Collaborative.

Thank you,

The Birth Justice Collaborative

Cultural Wellness Center,
Division of Indian Work,
Minnesota Indian Women's Resource Center,
Native American Community Clinic,
Liberty Northside Healing Space,
University of Minnesota Robert J. Jones Urban Research and Outreach Engagement Center