

# Fairview

April 8, 2024

Dear Chair Wiklund and Members of the Minnesota State Senate Health and Human Services Committee,

We are writing in support of **SF 4992** and **SF 5171**. Both bills work to address disparities in Minnesota's maternal health outcomes and to improve access and utilization of culturally appropriate perinatal health care and services in the African American and American Indian communities. Our Center for Community Health Equity is leading and building initiatives to address the social determinants of health, including maternal health and well-being.

**SF 4992: American Indian-focused Birth Center planning grant**

A replicable American Indian birth center will empower the American Indian community by providing a dignified setting that centers their cultural needs and promotes traditional healing and wellness. Studies have shown that increasing access to culturally responsive care interrupts the racial disparities in birth outcomes, at the point of care.

**SF 5171: African American-focused Homeplace Model planning grant**

An African American-focused homeplace will provide a safe space of health and wellness for expecting parents and families to heal, learn about and access perinatal care, lactation support, nutrition education, wealth-building, and to be in community during the postpartum period.

I urge you to join me, Fairview Health Services, and the Birth Justice Collaborative, in supporting **SF 4992** and **SF 5171**, to empower African American and American Indian families and positively position them to support healthy pregnancies and deliveries in their communities.

Many thanks for your consideration,



Diane Tran  
System Executive Director, Community Health Equity and Engagement

