



April 9, 2024

Members of the Senate Health and Human Services Committee:

On behalf of UCare, we are proud to support **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. As a part of our health equity work, UCare has focused on eliminating health disparities in BIPOC communities as a part of our goal to be an antiracist organization.

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

This 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.**

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

UCare urges you to join us, as a part of 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.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Joel Ulland".

**Joel Ulland**  
Vice President, Public Affairs Officer

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "P. Radford, Jr.".

**Pleasant Radford, Jr.**  
Health Equity Officer

