



April 17, 2024

Senator Wiklund
Chair, Health & Human Services Committee
Minnesota Senate Building, Room 1100

Chair Wiklund and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for including SF 4992 and SF 5171 in the Health & Human Services omnibus bill. These 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

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.

We urge you to continue supporting these provisions as you enter into Conference Committee negotiations, to empower African American and American Indian families and positively position them to support healthy pregnancies and deliveries in their communities.

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 & Outreach Engagement Center