



April 17, 2024

Senator Melissa Wiklund
Health & Human Services Committee
Minnesota Senate Building | Room 1100

Dear Chair Wiklund and Committee Members:

Minnesota's Prenatal to Three Coalition (PN-3) urges you to support SF 4664, to invest in the services and programs that support babies, young children, and families in Minnesota. Minnesota's Prenatal to Three Coalition (PN-3) represents a diverse group of stakeholders supporting policies and programs aimed at ensuring infants, toddlers and families have the best start in life regardless of income, geography, or race.

Thank you for including the following provisions in SF 4699; we ask you to continue to support them as you enter Conference Committee discussions:

- **Mental Health Provider Rate Increases, SF 5084**
- **Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation Grants, SF 4170**

Minnesota cannot afford to have more people leave the mental health field or have more agencies close because they cannot afford to pay staff and provide services for families. Investing in the mental health field, specifically by increasing Medicaid mental health reimbursement rates, will improve the ability of community-based organizations and public agencies to pay providers to perform critical care for services to children and families.

- **Pregnant and Parenting Homeless Youth Study, SF 5032**

Pregnant unhoused youth are often ineligible for traditional youth shelters and face barriers to accessing adequate perinatal healthcare and education. A study on pregnancy and parenting unhoused youth will help to disrupt the cycle of inter-generational homelessness by identifying barriers and opportunities to better meet the needs of unhoused pregnant youth in Minnesota.


- **Grant to Chosen Vessels Midwifery Services, SF 4807**

Chosen Vessels Midwifery Services is a trusted community partner working to address health disparities by destigmatizing breastfeeding and providing direct support to pregnant and parenting people.

- **African American Family Preservation Act, SF 716**

By ensuring the child protection services are more responsive and less punitive to the communities disproportionately represented in its system, the African American Family Preservation Act will better protect the interests of children and promote the family stability in the African American community.

Thank you,

Deb Fitzpatrick,
Children's Defense Funds-MN, 
Co-Chair

Nancy Jost,
West Central Initiative,
Co-Chair

Laura LaCroix-Dalluhn
MN Prenatal to Three (PN-3) Coalition,
Coalition Coordinator