



Sen. Melissa Wiklund
Health & Human Services Committee
Minnesota Senate Building

Thursday, March 6, 2025

Dear Sen. Wiklund and members of the Health & Human Services Committee,

The Birth Justice Collaborative requests your support of SF1732, to create a family supportive housing grant program, to help organizations and tribal agencies offer permanent family housing and provide targeted services for children and families to prevent housing instability from escalating, address their immediate needs, and help them achieve long-term stability and financial independence.

Stable housing is critical for children's healthy growth, development, and well-being. Research shows that experiencing homelessness as a child is disruptive to the critical early brain development and can lead to negative health, education, and behavioral outcomes. Oftentimes, children experiencing homelessness live separately from their parents. Supportive housing allows families to stay together and provides children with a secure environment to build healthy relationships with their parents and caregivers—the foundation that all future learning is built upon.

This grant program works to support the long term goals for every family by offering stabilization services for themselves and their children. Specialized family supports include work skills training, budgeting and money management, employment services, and referrals for mental health and SUDs treatment. This integrated approach connects families with dignified housing and provides a safe, stable environment for their children to grow.

Please join us in supporting SF1732, to support the long-term success and stability of families experiencing housing instability.

Sincerely,

The Birth Justice Collaborative

Akhmiri Sekhr-Ra, Cultural Wellness Center,
Louise Matson, Division of Indian Work,
Rev. Dr. Alike Galloway, Liberty Northside Healing Space,
Ruth Buffalo, Minnesota Indian Women's Resource Center,
Dr. Antony Stately, Native American Community Clinic,
Makeda Zulu, Urban Research & Outreach-Engagement Center, University of Minnesota