



Senator Melissa Wiklund  
Health & Human Services Committee  
Senate Building, 1100  
HF1793/ SF2109: Birth Center Reimbursement

April 1, 2025

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

The Birth Justice Collaborative encourages you to support HF1793/ SF2109, to increase reimbursement for facility services provided in a birth center, as a strategy to improve access to healthcare during the perinatal period amidst the recent closures of freestanding birth centers and labor and delivery units in Minnesota.

Birth centers provide care that produces equivalent or better birth and maternal health outcomes, compared to those who choose to give birth at a hospital. Birth centers use a midwifery model of care to provide services during the perinatal health period, many of the same prenatal and postpartum services offered in hospital settings are also provided by freestanding birth centers. The high quality care provided at birth centers improves health outcomes for pregnant people and their babies—saving taxpayers money in the reduction of cesarean births and long term care.<sup>1</sup>

The 2 main components involved in paying for care provided during the pregnancy and childbirth are physician fees and facility fees. Physician fees are paid to the provider for their services whereas the facility fee is paid to the birth center or hospital where the baby is born. Despite evidence that shows birth centers produce better outcomes for birthing people with low-risk pregnancies, birth centers are paid considerably less than hospitals.

Please join the Birth Justice Collaborative in supporting HF1793/ SF2109, to increase pay parity between birth centers and hospitals to ensure more babies will be born healthy in Minnesota.

Sincerely,

**The Birth Justice Collaborative**

Akhmiri Sekhr-Ra, Cultural Wellness Center

Louise Matson, Division of Indian Work

Rev. Dr. Alika 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

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<sup>1</sup> [Impossible Math: Financing a Freestanding Birth Center and Supporting Health Equity](#), Center of Health Equity & Access.