



April 8, 2025

Senate Health and Human Services Committee

Re: Support for SF 2669 – Senate Omnibus Health and Human Services

Chair Wicklund and Members of the Committee,

Dear Chair Wicklund and Members of the Senate Health and Human Services Committee,

On behalf of Homeplace, I would like to extend our heartfelt thanks for including the **appropriation for the African-American-focused Homeplace** in your omnibus committee bill package.

We are deeply encouraged by your support and investment in improving maternal and child health outcomes through culturally centered community-based healing and care. The \$500 thousand investment for fiscal year 2026 represents more than funding—it is a commitment to addressing racial disparities in maternal health and affirming the importance of culturally specific models of care.

The Homeplace model stands as a beacon of what is possible when policy centers community voice, dignity, and culturally rooted approaches to health and well-being. We are confident that with this support, Homeplace will continue to drive meaningful impact for Black mothers, birthing people, and families in our state.

Thank you again for your leadership and vision. We look forward to continuing to partner with you as this vital work unfolds.

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