

March 17, 2015

Tara Mack, Chair  
Health and Human Services Reform Committee  
Minnesota House of Representatives

Dear Chair Mack and Members of the Health and Human Services Reform Committee:

I am writing on behalf of the Minnesota Coalition for Targeted Home Visiting to express our support for HF1009, which increases Medicaid reimbursement for public health nurse home visiting, provides one-time funding to implement the Nurse-Family Partnership program in unserved areas, and provides additional funding for expanding NFP programs.

The Targeted Home Visiting Coalition is a statewide organization that supports voluntary home visiting as a core service for families. We seek to make high-quality, targeted home visiting available throughout Minnesota by sharing effective practices and advocating for increased funding to expand access to home visiting services. Nurse Family Partnership is one of several targeted home visiting programs that is recognized nationally as a proven strategy for improving the lives of children and families. Under this program, public health nurses work with families in their own homes during a time of critical early brain development (prenatally to age two). Among the demonstrated outcomes are healthier babies, better school readiness, reduced rates of child abuse and neglect, and reduced risk of juvenile delinquency.

Our coalition is working with MDH, early childhood foundations, and others to develop a unifying system of targeted home visiting that includes consistent outcomes, standards, training, and evaluation of all home visiting provider organizations so that all participating families will receive high quality home visiting services. Outcomes-driven programs such as NFP are critical to improving quality and assuring effective use of scarce resources. Many of the standards we are considering are consistent with those used in NFP's approach. In addition to these system development changes, additional dollars are needed to increase access for all families in need. The current Minnesota investment in home visiting falls far short of the resources needed to reach all families who could benefit from targeted home visiting services. HF1099 would not only provide funding to expand services throughout the state, but would generate additional support from the federal government by increasing Medicaid funding.

Your support of this bill is an important step in assuring that families are supported so that their children can be born healthy and succeed in school and in life.

Sincerely,

*Patricia Coldwell*

Patricia Coldwell, Coordinator  
Minnesota Coalition for Targeted Home Visiting

