

Representative Noor Chair Noor & honorable members of the committee. State Office Building, Room 200

Dear Chair Noor and Members of the House Human Services Finance Committee,

The Birth Justice Collaborative is writing to request your support of HF 2666, a bill to establish a Minnesota basic income grant program to allow entities to provide regular cash payments to eligible recipients to disrupt poverty, build wealth, advance equity, and support their basic needs.

Guaranteed basic income programs have been shown to improve health and education outcomes by supporting several social determinants of health that are proven to impact a child's healthy growth and development. Studies show that after one year of monthly cash support, young children in low incomes families exhibited greater cognitive drain development. By disrupting poverty on the individual level, recipients can address their basic needs while investing in the long-term health, success, and economic stability of their family.

HF 2666 will address Minnesota's maternal health inequities by empowering pregnant people and their families to overcome the financial barriers inhibiting them from accessing nutritious food, transportation, quality education, health care and mental health services.

The Birth Justice Collaborative urges you to join us in supporting HF 2666, to establish a Minnesota basic income grant program to empower families and positively position them to support the healthy growth and development of their children. Please contact Corenia Smith at <u>corenia@collectiveactionlab.com</u> with any questions, concerns, or for more information about the Birth Justice Collaborative.

Thank you,

The Birth Justice Collaborative

Cultural Wellness Center, Division of Indian Work, Minnesota Indian Women's Resource Center, Native American Community Clinic, Liberty Northside Healing Space University of Minnesota Robert J. Jones Urban Research and Outreach Engagement Center.