

February 23, 2021

Rep. Ruth Richardson  
403 State Office Building  
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
St. Paul, MN 55155



Dear Rep. Richardson:

Thank you for your commitment to improving maternal health outcomes. The Minnesota Section of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) strongly supports HF1268.

At ACOG, we recognize that it is critical to change the culture of medicine by addressing racism and implicit biases that contribute to health disparities. ACOG is committed to eliminating disparities in women's health and to confronting implicit and explicit bias and racism. This means recognizing and examining our own prejudice and bias and addressing the way in which health care systems perpetuate inequality. It also means engaging with diverse groups of advocates to foster the communication necessary to address health disparities and promote equity in health care access and delivery. We embrace that this requires active listening and a commitment to working together.

This important legislation would provide funding for an initiative with the African American Babies Coalition (AABC) within the Amherst H. Wilder Foundation to develop community-driven training and education on best practices for supporting healthy development of babies during pregnancy and postpartum.

This one-time appropriation from the general fund is a modest investment for more equitable outcomes for Black mothers and babies; allowing families to thrive.

Thank you again for authoring this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Siri Fiebiger, MD  
Legislative Chair  
ACOG, Minnesota Chapter