



March 28, 2023

Dear Chair Liebling and Members of the Committee,

The Voices and Choices for Children Coalition thanks you for the opportunity to share our strong support for **Section 125 of HF 2930 that permanently establishes and funds the Community Solutions for Healthy Child Development Grant Program in the House Health Omnibus bill.** This historic program focuses on improving measures of well-being for children of color and American Indian children in Minnesota prenatal to grade 3 through a community and equity-centered approach across the state.

Currently, twenty-two innovative community-generated solutions are being put to work tackling persistent unequal child outcomes across the state with funding from Community Solutions. The funding in HF 2930 will help us harness additional assets and knowledge within communities. To the extent additional funding is available, it would only increase the program's ability to deliver on its promise of a healthy future for every Minnesota child.

Our coalition focuses on shaping more equitable practices and policies that will support better outcomes for children of color and American Indian children prenatal to 8 years old across the state. More than ever, we want to ensure every Black, Indigenous and child of color and their families in Minnesota are valued in systems and in society in a way that allows for them to have equitable access to resources that celebrate and affirm their cultural background, race, ability, and experience so that they have opportunity to thrive and live their fullest lives. With this opportunity, we can go beyond imagining the many ideas in the state of Minnesota to approach language immersion, home visiting, and other topics around social determinants of health that potential grantees will be able to put into place.

We acknowledge that there are many other important provisions for children and families within HF 2930. **The Community Solutions for Healthy Child Development Grant Program is an important step in making Minnesota the best state to raise a child.**

Thank you,

Dianne Haulcy
Steering Committee Co-Chairs
Voices and Choices for Children Coalition

Rinal Ray