

# Minnesota Coalition for Targeted Home Visiting

c/o St. David's Center  
8800 Hwy 7, Suite 200  
St. Louis Park, MN 55426

Representative Mike Freiberg  
Chair, Preventive Health Policy Committee  
381 State Office Building  
Saint Paul, MN 55155

February 9, 2021

## **RE: Support for HF 521 and Extending MA Coverage Postpartum**

Mr. Chair and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Minnesota Coalition for Targeted Home Visiting (MCTHV) and our partners of nonprofit, local public health, and tribal health leaders across the state, I write in support of HF 521, which extends Medicaid coverage postpartum from 60 days to one year.

Over 40% of births in Minnesota are to women on Medicaid. Compared to women with private insurance, women with Medicaid coverage are more likely to have had a prior preterm birth, low birthweight baby, and experience certain chronic conditions (e.g., diabetes) – putting them at higher risk of maternal morbidity and mortality.<sup>1</sup> Additionally, maternal death rates are 2-3 times higher for Black, American-born African American women and Indigenous women in Minnesota.<sup>2</sup>

Expanding coverage postpartum provides important coverage during this vulnerable time, mitigating barriers to receiving care and preventing disruptions in care. Specifically, expanding coverage postpartum increases the likelihood women will seek postpartum care and address any immediate or long-term health concerns including postpartum depression.

The MCTHV supports these ongoing investments in HF 521 and are grateful for your consideration and support. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us at [Laura@LaCroixDalluhnConsulting.com](mailto:Laura@LaCroixDalluhnConsulting.com) or 651-769-4933.

Regards,



Laura LaCroix-Dalluhn,  
Coordinator

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<sup>1</sup> Medicaid and CHIP Payment and Access Commission, "Access in Brief: Pregnant Women and Medicaid," November 2018, available at: <https://www.macpac.gov/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/Pregnant-Women-and-Medicaid.pdf>.

<sup>2</sup> Pregnancy-related Mortality in the United States, 1991-1997,"Obstet Gynecol. 2003 Feb; 101(2):289-96. Available at: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/12576252>.