



February 22, 2021

Representative Tina Liebling  
Chair, Health Finance and Policy Committee  
477 State Office Building  
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Liebling and Members of the Committee:

Minnesota's Prenatal to Three Coalition (PN-3) requests your support for HF 1268. The PN-3 Coalition advocates for equitable state policies to support strong families and give children the best start in life and we believe HF 1268 provides important resources and training that can save lives. Unfortunately, in Minnesota maternal death rates are 2-3 times higher for Black, American-born African American women and Indigenous women, regardless of income and education<sup>1</sup> and many families experience ongoing stress related to housing and economic stability that has long term negative health impacts.

The Minnesota Department of Health recently completed their Maternal and Child Health needs as part of the federal Title V funding. A key finding focuses on improving culturally responsive care to women and families.<sup>2</sup> The needs assessment acknowledges that culture plays a huge role in how women and families define health and how they interact with the health care system.

The African American Babies Coalition (AABC) at Wilder works with families and communities to increase awareness about brain development and its impact on the long-term health and development of children. AABC provides families with critical training opportunities with trusted community partners. AABC works with other Integrated Care for High Risk Pregnancy (ICHRP) partners to connect families to health resources to positively impact health and mental health outcomes for Moms, babies and their family.

We appreciate your support and consideration of HF 1268.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding our support and and/or request for additional action, please contact our Policy and Legislative Affairs Director, Deb Fitzpatrick at [dfitzpatrick@childrensdefense.org](mailto:dfitzpatrick@childrensdefense.org) or Coalition Coordinator, Laura LaCroix-Dalluhn at [Laura@LaCroixDalluhnConsulting.com](mailto:Laura@LaCroixDalluhnConsulting.com),

Thank you,

Bharti Wah,  
Children's Defense Fund  
Co-Chair

Nancy Jost,  
West Central Initiative  
Co-Chair

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<sup>1</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>.

<sup>2</sup> Minnesota Department of Health, Title V Needs Assessment, p.6 <https://www.health.state.mn.us/docs/communities/titlev/titlevneedsassessplan.pdf>.