

Minnesota Coalition for Targeted Home Visiting

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

Representative Tina Liebling
Chair, Health & Human Services Finance Committee
477 State Office Building
Saint Paul, MN 55155

March 1, 2021

Dear Chair Liebling and Members of the Committee:

Minnesota Coalition for Targeted Home Visiting (MCTHV) requests your support for HF 521. Home visitors work with families during the pregnancy and up to two or three years postpartum. Minnesota currently provides Medicaid coverage 60 days postpartum, which causes unnecessary interruptions and barriers to health care to women and their children when they are most vulnerable.

According to the Center for Disease and Control, approximately 30% of pregnancy-related deaths—*not* counting those that were caused by suicide or overdose—occur 43 to 365 days postpartum.¹ Extending Medicaid postpartum the first year of life can reduce these barriers and improve health outcomes for mom and baby.

In Minnesota maternal death rates are 2-3 times higher for Black, American-born African American women and Indigenous women in Minnesota.² Having access to care and coverage can help mitigate these inequities. With over 40% of births in Minnesota are to woman on Medicaid, HF 521 can make a big impact in stabilizing care and coverage to women and their children.

The MCTHV supports the continuity of coverage provided under HF 521 and are grateful for your support. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us at Laura@LaCroixDalluhnConsulting.com or 651-769-4933.

Regards,



Laura LaCroix-Dalluhn,
Coordinator

¹ In 2018, a total of 658 women were identified as having died of maternal causes in the United States, and an additional 277 deaths were reported as having occurred more than 42 days but less than 1 year after delivery in 2018. These numbers are based on an updated method of coding (the "2018 method") maternal deaths based on the implementation of a revised U.S. Standard Certificate of Death. See Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, "Maternal Mortality in the United States: Changes in Coding, Publication, and Data Release, 2018," available at: https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr69/nvsr69_02-508.pdf.

² 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>.