



MINNESOTA ACADEMY OF
FAMILY PHYSICIANS
STRONG MEDICINE FOR MINNESOTA

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Chairwoman Tina Liebling
House Health Finance and Policy Committee
477 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chairwoman Liebling and members of the committee:

On behalf of our more than 3,100 family physician members, the Minnesota Academy of Family Physicians strongly supports HF 521, a bill to extend medical assistance coverage to eligible postpartum people from 60 to 365 days. Family physicians serve a key role in ensuring access to high quality health care by providing maternal and postpartum care, as well as delivering babies.

Maternal mortality in the United States is unacceptably high and disproportionality affects pregnant and postpartum Black, rural, and low-income women. Coverage of women for only 60 days postpartum is unacceptable considering one-third of all pregnancy related deaths occur between one week and one year after pregnancy ends. (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2019). "Vital Signs: Pregnancy-Related Deaths, United States, 2011-2015, and Strategies for Prevention, 13 States, 2013-2017) Extension of medical assistance for one year postpartum takes down one big barrier to health care for those in this vulnerable population.

HF 521 is a great step in addressing poor maternal outcomes in our state. Please support HF 521 and help improve access to health care for vulnerable people postpartum.

Sincerely,

Andrew Slattengren, DO, FAAFP
President