



March 24, 2022

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) is excited to support the Governor's proposed \$5.1 Billion investments in children and families. The Governor's proposed supplemental budget is a clear sign the Governor and Governor's Children's Cabinet are listening to families with young children across Minnesota. Families are struggling to meet daily expenses and challenges, and many of the investments in HF 4398 will help families with young children get a strong, stable start.

The PN-3 Coalition would like to highlight a number of key policy and funding provisions we hope you will support this Legislative Session:

1. Support for voluntary **Family Home Visiting services for Every infant** to improve maternal and child outcomes and address the mental health needs of parents, child and families as well as provide continued support for housing, food and employment
 - Support universal family home visiting program
 - Support expanded access to targeted family home visiting programs
2. Support for Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Services and Consultation to assist in identifying early developmental concerns and opportunities to connect families to early supports
 - Funding for **early childhood social workers**
 - Increased funding for **infant and early childhood mental health consultation** in schools
3. Statewide **Paid Family & Medical Leave Insurance Plan** will help families as they begin their lives, and assist with medical leaves throughout one's life. These policies help families avoid the false choice of attending to their health and home.
4. Support **Family Friendly Policies Impacting Justice Involved Families** to help connect parents and children as they serve time and prepare to return to their community.
5. Support **Community Solutions Fund for Healthy Child Development** to allow community members to identify solutions to managing and address issues and challenges addressing families.
6. Support **12 month continuous Medical Assistance coverage for children** until age 21. Continuous coverage has been connected to better health outcomes.
7. Support changes to **Doula supervision requirements** to bill directly through Medical Assistance.

8. **Extend MFIP reporting and prospective budgeting to six months.** It is important to help “Stabilizing Working Minnesotans” and reduces administrative costs.
9. Support the **Coordination & funding for Community Resource Hubs** to encourage coordination of early childhood services at the local level to assist family access to community resources.
10. Support **Homework Starts with Home expansion** to prenatal – five.

Minnesota families have struggled during the pandemic. Please join us in supporting HF 4398 to help families get back on track and move forward with a strong, stable start in life.

Thank you,

Deb Fitzpatrick,
Children’s Defense Funds-MN,
Co-Chair

Nancy Jost,
West Central Initiative,
Co-Chair

Laura LaCroix-Dalluhn,
MN Prenatal to Three (PN-3) Coalition,
Coalition Coordinator