



Minnesota Chapter

February 27, 2017

**Minnesota Chapter
American Academy of
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Representative Matt Dean

Minnesota House Health and Human Services Finance Committee

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Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of the Home Visiting for Pregnant and Parenting Teens funding allocation included in HF1564 for your consideration. This written testimony is provided on behalf of the Minnesota Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, which represents over 1,000 pediatricians and pediatric clinicians throughout Minnesota.

Family home visiting is a voluntary service for pregnant women and child caregivers most in need of support. We know that teen parents and their babies are particularly at risk for poor outcomes, including higher rates of prematurity, low birthweight, developmental delays, lower high school graduation, and increased risk of lifelong intergenerational poverty. Minnesota pediatricians support highly effective home visiting programs because they have been shown to:

- improve prenatal health;
- reduce childhood injuries;
- help ensure that children reach developmental milestones on track;
- improve school readiness;
- increase maternal employment; and
- ensure that very young children develop in safe and healthy environments.

Research in early brain development indicates that experiences in the first few years of a child's life are most critical and lay the groundwork for success in school and life. Highly effective family home visiting programs produce outcomes that pediatricians consider vital to the overall health of children.

The Minnesota Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics strongly supports home visiting as an investment in better outcomes for teen parents and their children.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andrew Kiragu".

Andrew Kiragu, MD, FAAP

President

American Academy of Pediatrics, Minnesota Chapter

cc: Representative Mary Franson rep.mary.franson@house.mn