



April 7, 2021

Minnesota State Capitol
75 Rev Dr Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Dear Representative Richardson and Representative Lieblich:

Thank you for including the Dignity in Pregnancy and Childbirth Act (HF660) in the Health and Policy Omnibus Bill.

As a statewide community foundation, the Women's Foundation of Minnesota is committed to building a pipeline to future prosperity for all. In 2017, the Women's Foundation published the Young Women's Initiative MN *Blueprint for Action*, a young-women led, community-informed plan of 20 recommendations to achieve equity in outcomes and ensure access to equal opportunities and safe, prosperous lives. Recommendations from the *Blueprint* made visible the importance of health and wellness, including reproductive healthcare access as essential for young women in Minnesota to thrive.

Establishing anti-racism and implicit bias trainings with additional research on maternal morbidity is critical to ensuring everyone receives quality healthcare across our state. In Minnesota, Black women are 2.3 times more likely to die of pregnancy or childbirth-related causes than their white counterparts. For Native women, this rate is approximately four times higher. In addition, nearly half of all maternal deaths in Minnesota occur in Greater Minnesota.

With these statistics, we know a majority of these deaths, over 60% are preventable. This is an incredible step forward to ensuring women and mothers, especially Black, Native, and mothers in Greater Minnesota have access to quality healthcare and are able to lead their lives with dignity.

Thank you for your leadership and continued support of this provision. We are grateful to have you as a partner in our work.

Sincerely,

Women's Foundation of Minnesota