



March 4, 2021

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

Dear Committee Members:

On behalf of the Young Women's Cabinet of Minnesota, we respectfully urge the committee to support HF660 Dignity in Pregnancy and Childbirth Act.

Led by the Women's Foundation of Minnesota, the Young Women's Cabinet, is a dynamic group of 32 young women and youth leaders (ages 16-24) from across Minnesota dedicated to racial and gender equity. In partnership with the Governor's Office, the Young Women's Cabinet is charged with centering the leadership and solutions of young women of color to improve equity and opportunity for young women in Minnesota. This initiative is the first-of-its-kind in the nation aimed at improving equity and opportunity for and with young women.

Together, with young women in the lead, we're building a pipeline to future prosperity for all. In 2017, the Women's Foundation published the YWI 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. As mothers, caregivers, and leaders, young women on the Cabinet are especially aware of the consequences to themselves, their families, and communities when access to quality healthcare is limited. However, with your support, young women and Minnesota communities at-large will be able to lead their lives with dignity and assurance of access to quality care.

We thank you for your time and consideration and hope you will vote in support of HF660.

Sincerely,

Women's Foundation of Minnesota
Young Women's Cabinet