**Subject:** **Letter of Support for HF52**

﻿

Chair Liebling and Members of Health Policy and Finance Committee.

On behalf of the Wilder Foundation African American Babies Coalition and Projects (AABC), I am writing in support of HF52 to establish a right for a designated support person while pregnant patients receive healthcare. The coalition includes educators, nonprofit and civic leaders, researchers, childcare providers, parents, grandparents, and public health professionals.

The period surrounding birth is a particularly vulnerable time period. We also recognize that there are inequities in outcomes as Black women are 3-4 times more likely to die of a pregnancy related cause. Having held summits around this issue we know these deaths are preventable and we have heard the stories of women whose lives were saved because of the presence of a support person.

At AABC and Projects we know that much work remains to be done to addressing the systems and practices that contribute to this preventable crisis. We believe HF52 is a critical step in the right direction to improve maternal health outcomes knowing when maternal health improves infant health outcomes are also improved.

Sincerely,

Sameerah Bilal-Roby

Director, Wilder African American Babies Coalition and Projects ([www.aabcprojects.org](http://www.aabcprojects.org))

Program Director, Integrated Care High Risk Pregnancy’s Initiative (ICHRP)

**Wilder Economic Stability and Aging Services (ESAS) Division**

911 LaFond Avenue

Saint Paul, Minnesota 55104

Office: 651.280.2331

She/Her