



January 31, 2023

Chair Dave Pinto
Children and Families Finance & Policy
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Pinto and Children and Families Finance & Policy Committee Members:

Minnesota's Prenatal to Three Coalition (PN-3) writes today to urge you to support the Community Solutions for Healthy Child Development Grant Program outlined in HF 639. We believe the Community Solutions Grant Program is an important way to recognize that communities of color, American Indian communities, and geographically dispersed communities have invaluable knowledge, and must be active and valued participants within the creation of solutions for themselves.

The pilot Community Solutions for Health Child Development Grant Program is showing significant progress in working within communities to address health and wellness gaps. Strategies and programs to address perinatal health, child well-being and community connections among children and families are essential to positioning each family for stability and success. Funding these programs long-term will help Minnesota's state and community leaders work together to best meet the unique challenges that exist within communities of color and Indigenous communities.

It is essential we build solutions that are culturally appropriate and responsive. We believe community driven solutions are essential to identifying innovative strategies for addressing historical challenges and trauma in communities of color and American Indian communities.

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