February 6, 2023

Representative Michael Nelson
Chair, Labor and Industry Finance and Policy Committee
100 Rev Dr Martin Luther King Jr
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Nelson and Members of the Committee:

Minnesota's Prenatal to Three Coalition (PN-3) is excited to support Paid Family & Medical Leave, HF 2, as a significant investment in Minnesota's youngest children, their families, their employers, and communities in general. We believe public investments aimed at supporting healthy attachment, growth, development, and learning will positively position children and families for a lifetime of prosperity.

Paid Family Leave is a win/win for parents, children, and businesses. Paid leave improves worker recruitment, retention, and productivity, saving employers money through reduced turnover costs. Paid leave allows smaller businesses to compete better with larger businesses and increases the likelihood parents will return to work after the birth or adoption of a child.

Paid Family & Medical Leave provides parents with the opportunity to bond with newborns and newly adopted children, secure attachment between parents and their children, and adjust to caring for their newest family member. Longer leave, which is more likely if paid, following the birth of a child results in increased rates of breastfeeding, improved maternal physical and mental health, and improved health and access to health care for their baby. When parents don't have access to paid leave, they need to choose their health and/or the health of their child over their financial wellbeing.

The PN-3 Coalition believes the time is right to spend surplus resources to establish this fund and make it available to Minnesota families. Please join us in supporting HF 2 to help families get back on track and move forward with a strong, stable start in life.

Thank you,

Nancy Jost, West Central Initiative, Co-Chair	Laura LaCroix-Dalluhn, Prenatal to Three (PN-3) Coalition, Coalition Coordinator	Deb Fitzpatrick, Children's Defense Fund-MN Co-Chair