



April 10, 2023

Representative Zack Stephenson
Chair, Commerce Finance and Policy Committee
10, State Office Building
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Stephenson 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 because it improves maternal health and parental bonding. Paid 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. New parents may be dealing with a host of medical conditions after birth, such as complications from childbirth, pain, depression, or anxiety, all while caring for a newborn. 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 health.

Paid Family & Medical 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.

The PN-3 Coalition believes the time is right to spend surplus resources to help 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 MN,
Co-Chair

Laura LaCroix-Dalluhn,
Prenatal to Three (PN-3) Coalition,
Coalition Coordinator

Deb Fitzpatrick,
Children's Defense Fund,
Co-Chair