



February 1, 2023

Representative Dave Pinto
Chair, Children and Families Finance and Policy Committee
State Office Building
100 Rev Martin Luther King Jr Blvd
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Pinto 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. For new parents, paid leave increases the time they have to develop strong bonds with their baby and adjust to caring for the new child. This bond is the foundation of all future child development.

Having access to paid family leave during the perinatal health period can help make the postpartum period easier. Paid leave is proven to increase dad's involvement and boost health outcomes for mom and the child, including increased breastfeeding rates and fewer health complications, increasing her odds of returning to the workforce.

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. 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. Paid leave provides critical time with newborns and newly adopted children and helps secure attachment and bonds between caregivers and child.

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,
MN Prenatal to Three (PN-3) Coalition,
Coalition Coordinator

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