



March 7, 2022

Representative Dave Pinto  
Chair, Early Childhood Finance and Policy Committee  
503 State Office Building  
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Pinto and Members of the Committee:

The Coalition for Family Home Visiting (MCFHV) is writing in support of HF 3887, Minnesota's baby steps home visiting program and HF 3886, a new voluntary universal family home visiting program. Both family home visiting programs would bring critical, voluntary services to every newborn and parent in Minnesota.

Voluntary family home visiting programs address the perinatal health and mental health needs of the baby and parents after birth; attend to breastfeeding or feeding questions and concerns; and connect families to critical community resources such as child care, food shelves, housing needs, domestic abuse shelters; and refer families to local faith institutions when requested.

The effects of the pandemic have been challenging on families and communities across the state. Across the country, [maternal death rates increased 53%](#) during the pandemic, and [early research is showing signs of cognitive delays in babies](#) born during the pandemic. And, the mental health needs of families have increased as a result of isolation, concerns over the illness, and/or the financial strains. In Minnesota, family home visitors share stories of increased referrals for developmental delay upon returning to family homes this summer and fall. These voluntary home visiting programs aim to mitigate the challenges families experience after giving birth to a child and provide important information that allows families to thrive in their homes and communities.

These voluntary family home visiting programs aim to provide supports to every Minnesota child and family born over the next few years. These programs reach families in the first days, weeks or months and offer stabilizing supports to address medical and mental health concerns and connect families to resources. All families will be referred to existing long-term, targeted family home visiting if they'd like additional support, leveraging the resources that currently exist.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us at [Laura@LaCroixDalluhnConsulting.com](mailto:Laura@LaCroixDalluhnConsulting.com).

Regards,

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Coordinator