



663 UNIVERSITY AVENUE WEST  
SUITE 200  
SAINT PAUL, MN 55104

PHONE 651.789.2090

Representative Tina Liebling  
477 State Office Building  
St. Paul, MN 55155

February 6th, 2023

Chair Liebling and Members of the Committee:

Gender Justice is a St. Paul-based legal and policy advocacy organization dedicated to advancing gender equity through the law. We are also the organizational home of UnRestrict Minnesota, an expansive, diverse, and inclusive coalition for reproductive rights, health, and justice. UnRestrict Minnesota's multi-racial coalition includes health care clinics, abortion funds, practical support groups, LGBTQ advocacy groups, faith communities, organizers, lawyers, doulas, and many more.

UnRestrict Minnesota's vision is to achieve full reproductive justice, an organizing framework created by Black women where every person has the ability to decide if, when, and how to become a parent; raise healthy children in safe and thriving communities; and have gender freedom and bodily autonomy.

We are writing in support of HF1059. HF1059 would appropriate money for programs that support the healthy development of BIPOC babies and postpartum care for BIPOC families throughout the state.

Reports from the Minnesota Department of Health and other research have shown that negative maternal health outcomes among our BIPOC communities are at an all-time high. For example, last year, a report from the Minnesota Department of Health found that Black Minnesotans represent 13% of the birthing population but made up 23% of pregnancy-associated deaths, while American Indian Minnesotans represent 2% of the birthing population, but 8% of pregnancy-associated deaths.

HF1059 will provide critically-needed resources to help address the racial disparities in maternal health outcomes throughout Minnesota.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Megan Peterson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Megan" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Peterson".

Megan Peterson  
Executive Director, Gender Justice