



March 3, 2021

Rep. Jamie Becker-Finn  
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd  
559 State Office Building  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Sen. Mary Kiffmeyer  
95 University Ave West  
3103 Minnesota Senate Building  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Rep. Becker-Finn and Sen. Kiffmeyer:

The Minnesota Prenatal to Three (PN-3) Coalition is pleased to support the Healthy Start Act, HF 1403/SF 1315, which provides specialized programming for pregnant and parenting women during the first year of life. We know women in prison tend to be younger, have completed less education and more likely to have experienced physical or chemical abuse. Moving women and their children from traditional prison settings to community alternative settings can improve birth outcomes for Mom and baby. Allowing parents to bond during the first year of life can improve the health outcomes for children during this first year and for the remainder of their lives.

The PN-3 Coalition is focused on supporting policies to address racial, economic and geographic inequities so that all Minnesota children and families will thrive. We believe HF 1403/SF 1315 helps address several inequities that impact justice involved children and families.

We thank you for consideration and support. If you have any questions or concerns regarding our support and and/or request for additional action, please contact our Policy and Legislative Affairs Director, Deb Fitzpatrick at [dfitzpatrick@childrensdefense.org](mailto:dfitzpatrick@childrensdefense.org) or Coalition Coordinator, Laura LaCroix-Dalluhn at [laura@lacroixdalluhnconsulting.com](mailto:laura@lacroixdalluhnconsulting.com).

Thank you,

Bharti Wahli,  
Children's Defense Fund  
Co-Chair

Nancy Jost,  
West Central Initiative  
Co-Chair