



Representative Jeff Backer
Health Finance & Policy Committee
Minnesota Capitol, 120

Wednesday, March 2, 2025

Dear Chair Backer and Members of the Health Finance & Policy Committee,

The Birth Justice Collaborative is writing to request your support of HF1105, to require the Commissioner of Health to conduct maternal death studies as a strategy to reduce preventable maternal mortality in Minnesota. Findings from these studies will help healthcare providers and policymakers improve maternal health outcomes by developing targeted strategies to improve access to lifesaving perinatal care and to meet the cultural and regional needs of all pregnant people in Minnesota.

Maternal mortality is an important health indicator because it is a reflection of the quality and accessibility of the overall healthcare system. Minnesota's disparate health outcomes¹ for birthing people in the African American, American Indian community, and in Greater Minnesota highlights long-standing barriers to affordable, culturally and regionally responsive maternal healthcare. The data underscores the need for greater investment in the research and assessment of maternal mortality data and the development of targeted strategies and intervention.

Please join the Birth Justice Collaborative in supporting HF1105, to require the standardized review of every maternal death in Minnesota, so we have the data needed to prevent future pregnancy-associated deaths.

Sincerely,

The Birth Justice Collaborative

Akhmiri Sekhr-Ra, Cultural Wellness Center,
Louise Matson, Division of Indian Work,
Rev. Dr. Alika Galloway, Liberty Northside Healing Space,
Ruth Buffalo, Minnesota Indian Women's Resource Center,
Dr. Antony Stately, Native American Community Clinic,
Makeda Zulu, Urban Research & Outreach-Engagement Center, University of Minnesota

¹ Minnesota Department of Health. 2022. *Minnesota Maternal Mortality Update*.
<https://www.health.state.mn.us/people/womeninfants/maternalmortality/maternalmortreport.pdf>