

Minnesota Coalition for Targeted Home Visiting

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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 Coalition for Targeted Home Visiting (MCTHV) 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. The MCTHV has long supported programming focused on children and families impacted by incarceration and believes these specialized programs can make a positive impact in the lives of families as they face difficult times.

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.

A positive, healthy relationship with a parent or caregiver is the most important factor for successful development in early life. These relationships not only provide a safe and healthy environment for physical growth, but also positive interactions that support healthy emotional and social development and learning. Parent education, home visiting and similar supports are critically important because they help strengthen and empower parents to build health connections with their children, even in the most challenging situations. All of this is possible in through the Healthy Start Act.

We thank you both for authoring this important legislation and hope that advocacy is able to get it passed in the 2021 legislative session. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at Laura@LaCroixDalluhnConsulting.com.

Regards,



Laura LaCroix-Dalluhn,
Coordinator