

February 2021

Representative Ruth Richardson  
MN House of Representatives  
403 State Office Building  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Representative Richardson,

On behalf of Allina Health, I am writing today to express our support for HF 660, The Dignity in Pregnancy and Childbirth Act, which will provide important resources to improve the health of black, brown and indigenous mothers and babies.

Allina Health strives to provide world-class care, outcomes and experiences for the combined services of mothers, babies and families. We provide integrated mother and baby services across all 11 Allina Health hospitals, Minnesota Perinatal Physicians locations and in partnership with Children's - Minnesota campuses in Minneapolis, St. Paul and Coon Rapids.

We know providing culturally responsive care as well as addressing implicit bias is critical to providing truly equitable care, which is why we have already started additional implicit bias training for all of our caregivers. We also recognize the importance of midwifery and doula services in the continuum of care and support further building out access to these services across the state.

As a member of the MN Maternal Morbidity Review Project, we found preliminary data from 2011-2017 showed the maternal mortality rate for non-Hispanic African-American women was 2.3 times higher when compared to white mothers. The American Indian maternal mortality rate was approximately 4 times higher than that for white mothers. Unfortunately, this trend has continued. We can and must do better as a state in addressing these disparities and HF 660 is a step in the right direction.

Thank you for supporting these important initiatives in reducing maternal health care disparities in Minnesota.

Sincerely,

*Lisa L. Saul, MD*

Lisa Saul, MD  
Vice President, Mother Baby Service Line  
Allina Health