



February 9, 2021

Representative Tina Liebling  
Chair, Health Finance and Policy Committee  
477 State Office Building  
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Liebling and Members of the Committee:

Minnesota's Prenatal to Three Coalition (PN-3) requests your support for HF 660. The PN-3 Coalition advocates for equitable state policies to support strong families and give children the best start in life and we believe HF 660 provides important resources and training that can save lives. Unfortunately, in Minnesota maternal death rates are 2-3 times higher for Black, American-born African American women and Indigenous women, regardless of income and education.<sup>1</sup>

The Minnesota's Department of Health recently completed their Maternal and Child Health needs as part of the federal Title V funding. A key finding was to improve culturally responsive care to women and families.<sup>2</sup> The needs assessment acknowledges that culture plays a huge role in how women and families define health and how they interact with the health care system.

Increasing diversity and knowledge of providers through training and data collection is an important strategy to mitigate these deadly inequities and we ask for your support of HF 660.

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

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<sup>1</sup> Pregnancy-related Mortality in the United States, 1991-1997,"Obstet Gynecol. 2003 Feb; 101(2):289-96. Available at: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/12576252>.

<sup>2</sup> Minnesota Department of Health, Title V Needs Assessment, p.6  
<https://www.health.state.mn.us/docs/communities/titlev/titlevneedsassessplan.pdf>.