

Minnesota Chapter

INCORPORATED IN MINNESOTA

American Academy of Pediatrics

DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN®



Minnesota Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics

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January 25, 2023

Workforce Development and Finance and Policy Committee
State Office Building
100 Rev Dr Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St Paul, MN 55155

Members of the Workforce Development and Finance and Policy Committee,

On behalf of the members of the Minnesota Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (MNAAP), I am writing in strong support of HF2.

This legislation offers children, families, and caregivers with comprehensive support, security, and needed stability through a comprehensive paid family and medical leave (PFML) program.

Pediatricians have long understood the numerous health benefits of PFML for our youngest Minnesotans and their families. In hospitals, clinics, and our daily lives, we hear stories about families who are forced to choose between earning a paycheck and providing care for their child – a decision no parent should be forced to make. A comprehensive PFML program would help support families with the necessary time and resources to dedicate towards their newborn. Especially in the earliest weeks of a child's life, concentrated time and attention to the child are critical to their emotional, physical, and intellectual development.

PFML offers parents the financial stability required to pay full attention to their child's health and development. This is especially important for new parents and parents of children with special health care needs. Additionally, the current lack of PFML in Minnesota has a disproportionate impact on children and families from marginalized communities who are less likely to otherwise have access to it.

MNAAP asks for your support of HF2.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Eileen Crespo". The signature is written in a cursive style and is set against a light green rectangular background.

Eileen Crespo, MD, FAAP

President, Minnesota Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics