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April 9, 2018

Re: Support for HF 3574

Dear Legislators:

Minnesotans of color and American Indians experience some of the biggest inequities in the country in education, employment, and much more, with devastating consequences for our state. These inequities in Minnesota start before birth; women of color and American Indian women receive adequate prenatal care at much lower rates than do white women. Inadequate prenatal care has been linked to poor health outcomes for babies and to later struggles with academics. Closing this gap should be one of our highest priorities.

Minnesota's existing health-disparities grants do not currently address gaps in prenatal care. HF 3574 / SF 3307 would expand these grants to encompass this critical area of need. Our organization strongly supports passage of this important legislation.

Every child, from every background, deserves the chance for a strong start. HF 3574 / SF 3307 would help to provide that chance.

Thank you for your service and for the opportunity to provide this input.

Sincerely,

Louise Matson

Executive Director

Division of Indian Work

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