



Chairman Matt Dean
Minnesota House HHS Finance Committee

February 28, 2017

Chairman Dean,

On behalf of the Local Public Health Association of Minnesota (LPHA) and its more than 220 members of public health leaders from across the state, I am writing to express our support for additional investments in our state's family home visiting programs.

Local public health agencies are a primary provider of targeted family home visiting programs. These voluntary programs are known to prevent child maltreatment, promote healthy childhood development and foster self-sufficiency among our most at-risk families. Family home visits are led by trained staff and begin prenatally whenever possible. Depending on the family's circumstances, visits may continue until a child is two years of age or older.

Teen parents and their children are at particularly high risk for poor maternal and child health outcomes, including premature birth, low birthweight and developmental delays. Teen parents also are less likely to graduate from high school, and their families are more likely to struggle with lifelong poverty. Reaching this population early means we can link young families to early childhood and community programs that will put them on track for a more positive future. With current funding, however, we are only able to serve about 20% of the pregnant and parenting teens in Minnesota who would benefit from family home visiting.

Greater investments in family home visiting, like that proposed in HF1564, would allow local public health agencies to expand services targeting pregnant and parenting teens throughout our state. LPHA and its members are proud to be a partner in this work.

Best regards,

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