

January 16, 2023

Representative Tina Liebling, Chair

Health Finance and Policy Committee

Minnesota House of Representatives

Dear Chair Liebling,

As the President and CEO of the Women's Foundation of Minnesota, I write to express our support for HF52, which will ensure that pregnant patients have the support they choose when receiving health care services.

For 40 years, the Women's Foundation has invested more than \$45 million in organizations across the state, and advanced policies to create a state where women, girls, and their families can thrive. Our research with the Center on Women, Gender, & Public Policy at the Humphrey School shows that we continue to have stark disparities when it comes to maternal health outcomes. We know that in Minnesota, Native American women are four times more likely, and Black women are 2.3 times more likely to die of pregnancy or childbirth-related causes than white women in our state. Tragically, 60% of those deaths are completely preventable.

We have been proud to support system changing policies including the dignity in pregnancy and childbirth act, and there is more to do to tackle the disparities that continue to plague Minnesota's health care system. Having another person in the room while receiving care, to help a patient advocate for themselves, and to provide cultural and emotional support is essential to creating better outcomes.

We appreciate the work of Representative Richardson to continue to create and pursue policies that will make Minnesota safer for pregnant patients. We urge you to act on HF52 to make Minnesota a more equitable place for pregnant patients.

Thank you,



Gloria Perez

President & CEO, Women's Foundation of Minnesota