



February 8, 2021

Representative Kelly Morrison  
429 State Office Building  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Representative Morrison:

On behalf of the Minnesota Medical Association (MMA), the state's professional association of physicians, residents, and medical students, thank you for your leadership in authoring HF 521, legislation to extend Medical Assistance coverage for new mothers from 60 days to 12 months after giving birth. The MMA strongly supports your bill and urges its passage.

Across the globe, rates of postpartum maternal death are decreasing, and yet rates of maternal mortality in the U.S. are rising. Here in Minnesota, current law provides coverage for mothers for only 60 days postpartum. Many women continue to need care but they lose access to coverage at the conclusion of that period. Extending Medical Assistance coverage to 12 months of postpartum will improve health outcomes for eligible mothers and babies alike. Healthy mothers lead to healthier babies.

While Minnesota is a national leader in health status, our racial and ethnic disparities are amongst the worst in the nation. African American and Native American women face a dramatically increased risk of postpartum death. Extending MA coverage for new mothers is a critical step to reducing disparities in postpartum health.

To improve maternal and child health, the MMA enthusiastically endorses HF 521. Once again, thank you for your leadership on this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Marilyn Peitso, MD  
President  
Minnesota Medical Association