



Minnesota Coalition
FOR FAMILY HOME VISITING

April 14, 2022

Representative Liz Olson
Chair, Ways & Means Committee
200, State Office Building
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Olson and Members of the Committee:

Minnesota's Coalition for Family Home Visiting (MCFHV) writes in support of HF 24, to establish a grant program to ensure all children and families have access to safe drinking water in Minnesota. The MCFHV is excited to see significant investments in the health and wellbeing of Minnesota's youngest children, pregnant people, and their families. We believe public investments aimed at supporting healthy environments will positively position young children and families for a lifetime of development and prosperity.

No amount of lead is safe, but pregnant people and their babies are most at risk of adverse health outcomes. According to the Minnesota Department of Health, pregnant people who were exposed to lead experienced impaired fetal growth, lower birth weights, and contaminated breast milk. The effects of lead exposure in children are exponentially consequential as prenatal and early childhood lead exposure increases the odds of permanently impaired growth and development. The CDC has found that even low levels of lead in children may result in impaired growth, cognitive and learning disabilities, hearing problems, nerve damage, blood diseases, and other severe health outcomes.

The Minnesota Coalition for Family Home Visiting urges you to support HF 24 to address this critical issue of maternal and child health. It is time to invest in the water quality of Minnesota to ensure all children have a strong start in life.

Thank you,

Laura LaCroix-Dalluhn,
Minnesota Coalition for Family Home Visiting
Projects Coordinator

Cati Gómez
Minnesota Coalition for Family Home Visiting
Policy Associate