March 15, 2022

Representative Tina Liebling
Chair, Health Finance and Policy Committee
477 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Liebling and Members of the Committee:

Minnesota's Prenatal to Three Coalition (PN-3) requests your support for HF 3887 and HF 3886, which provides voluntary family home visiting for every child born in Minnesota. On average 69,000 babies are born each year in Minnesota. The new Minnesota baby steps program and universal family home visiting program would provide critical resources to babies and their families in the first few days and months to connect them to important community resources and address any perinatal health, mental health or feeding concerns.

Voluntary family home visiting programs are proven to provide families important connection and address concerns early. Short term home visiting programs can reduce long-term health care costs and connect families to child care, early learning programs and other key community programs when needed.

Minnesota families have struggled during the pandemic. The mental health needs of mothers, children and families have increased, and unfortunately babies and young children are showing signs of developmental delays as a result of the pandemic[1]. Addressing these concerns early can help families avoid long-term costs of health and mental health needs that are not addressed.

We encourage you to join us in supporting HF 3887 and HF 3886.

Thank you,

Deb Fitzpatrick,
Children's Defense Funds-MN,
Co-Chair

Nancy Jost,
West Central Initiative,
Co-Chair

Laura LaCroix-Dalluhn,
MN Prenatal to Three (PN-3) Coalition,
Coalition Coordinator

---

[1] Impact of COVID-19 Pandemic on Early Child Cognitive Development: Initial Findings in a Longitudinal Observational Study of Child Health. August 11, 2021. National Library of Medicine. Retrieved online (3/14/22); https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/34401887/

555 Park St, #410, St. Paul, MN 55103