



February 27, 202

Rep. Ruth Richardson
403 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Rep. Richardson,

On behalf of the more than 10,000 members of the Minnesota Medical Association I am writing in support of HF 2099, to establish a task force on maternal health and substance use disorder.

The use or abuse of illegal or prescription drugs during pregnancy can have serious health consequences for both mother and infant. Yet, any policy or requirement that leads pregnant women to forgo seeking prenatal care also risks compromising the health of both the mother and the child.

Legislation passed in 2021(HF 1182) acknowledged this fact by removing the state mandated reporting of pregnant women who may be using or abusing controlled substances. Yet, the practice continues in Minnesota. HF 2099 establishes a task force to develop uniform guidelines for when toxicology testing is appropriate. It is the next step to ensuring that pregnant women receive prenatal medical care without fear of being reported to law enforcement or child protective services.

Minnesota continues to have large disparities in how healthcare services are provided, including in maternity care. Removing all barriers for women to receive critical prenatal care is one step we can take to ensure healthy outcomes for all moms and kids.

The MMA supports HF 2099 to help us remove a barrier to prenatal care.

Sincerely,

Will Nicholson, MD
President, Minnesota Medical Association