



March 1, 2023

Representative Dave Pinto
Chair, Education Finance Committee
State Office Building 200
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Pinto and Members of the Committee:

Minnesota's Prenatal to Three Coalition (PN-3) writes in support of HF 2095 to modify standards for chemical dependency during pregnancy, reporting requirements, and the definition of neglect or maltreatment. The PN-3 Coalition supports the effort to decrease barriers to substance use treatment services during pregnancy and postpartum and eliminates the additional concerns of possible child neglect and maltreatment charges while seeking treatment.

This bill will help preserve the family unit and foster the parent and child attachment needed to support early childhood growth and development while parents and caregivers seek treatment. The Coalition believes these modifications can help keep families out of the child welfare system and preserve opportunities for parents to bond with their babies while they participate in treatment.

The PN-3 Coalition believes family preservation is a critical factor to the healthy growth and development of young children. We appreciate your support for HF 2095 and for families across the state trying to manage these challenges.

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

