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Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

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March 22, 2022

Chairwoman Debra Savage and Members
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson, 2nd Floor
Springfield, Illinois 62761

Re: Letter of Support for Quincy Medical Group Birth Center (Project # 21-029) and Quincy Medical Group Hospital – Project # 20-044

Dear Chairwoman Savage and Members:

I am pleased to provide this letter of support for the proposed Quincy Medical Group Birth Center and Quincy Medical Group Hospital.

Healthcare is a human right. Access to quality, affordable healthcare is an incredibly important, yet challenging, issue facing Illinois families today. Too often, families experience barriers to care, lack of access to care, or unaffordable care. These problems are often exacerbated in rural counties where residents face additional healthcare outcome disparities and maternity care challenges.

As a member of Congress representing the Second Congressional District, member of the Energy and Commerce Health Subcommittee, and Chairwoman of the Congressional Black Caucus Health Braintrust, I am committed to improving the health and wellness of vulnerable communities across the country and ensuring that all Illinoisans have access to quality, affordable healthcare. On March 9, 2022, I voted to pass the Fiscal Year 2022 Omnibus Appropriations Bill, which included the bipartisan bill Maternal Health Quality Improvement Act and incorporated key provisions of MOMMA's Act. I introduced and sponsored MOMMA's Act — legislation focused on expanding access to Medicaid postpartum coverage and improving maternal health data collection. The legislation will provide funding to establish rural obstetric networks aimed at improving birth outcomes and reducing maternal morbidity in rural areas. This legislation will improve the maternal care received by women of color and save lives.

I strongly support Quincy Medical Group's mission to transform the delivery of healthcare in West Central Illinois and provide residents with affordable, high-quality healthcare close to home. I also applaud Quincy Medical Group's focus on transforming women's healthcare and efforts to promote health equity, improve maternal health outcomes, and empower women to make their own informed healthcare choices.

The proposed Quincy Medical Group Birth Center and Quincy Medical Group Hospital, in conjunction with QMG's established facilities and service lines, will allow for Quincy Medical Group to provide its patients with a full continuum of high-quality care and will result in a significant positive impact to West Central Illinois residents. The projects address the need to control the rising cost of healthcare and are expected to substantially lower the cost of care, especially maternal care, in the tri-state region.

I respect the review process of the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board and strongly ask that you fully consider the merits of the proposed projects and healthcare interests of residents in the region. Improving healthcare means challenging the status quo. I ask that you consider the positive impacts the proposed projects will have on improving access to quality, affordable healthcare and promoting health equity in the tri-state region.

I urge you to keep an open mind while reviewing these transformative projects, and if you believe they will enhance access to care and patient choice, please vote to approve the proposed Quincy Medical Group Birth Center and Quincy Medical Group Hospital.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Robin Kelly". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large, stylized "R" and "K".

Robin Kelly
Member of Congress