



July 20, 2021

Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson Street
Springfield, IL 62761

RE: Support for Quincy Medical Group Birth Center

Dear Members of the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board

I would like to express my support for the development of a Freestanding Birth Center by Quincy Medical Group in Quincy, Illinois.

The center will offer a new service to which Adams County nor the surrounding counties have previously have had access. It will allow families to have a safe out-of-hospital birth experience. These services will complement existing services already offered at Quincy Medical Group.

The birth center will be another asset to Illinois, as it is a great alternative. Statistics for birth centers in Illinois and nation-wide show lower rates of induction, pre-term deliveries and C-Section rates.

I urge the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board to approve the application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Laura S Wiegand". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Laura" being more prominent.

Laura S Wiegand
COO
Birth Partners, INC



1454 North County Road 2050
P.O. Box 160 • Carthage, IL 62321
(217) 357-8500 • MHTLC.ORG

July 12, 2021

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of Memorial Hospital Association in Carthage, Illinois, I am writing this letter of support for a birth center being proposed by Quincy Medical Group to be located in Quincy, Illinois. This birth center will provide a home-like setting that will provide patients a choice on the type of birthing experience they would like with the comfort and safety that expecting families desire.

The current Covid-19 pandemic has highlighted even more the importance of community-based care settings like birth centers. Birth centers keep healthy folks out of the hospital and help to reduce transmission to vulnerable populations like pregnant clients. More than ever before, individuals are seeking out of hospital care and birth and there are just not enough safe options for them in our area.

This center will be a community hub for prenatal education, prenatal fitness, and a gathering space for organizations serving expecting families. I encourage you to strongly consider support for this birth center project.

Sincerely,

Ada Bair
Chief Executive Officer

AB/sf



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July 23, 2021

To Whom It May Concern:

I am expressing my support for a birth center being proposed by Quincy Medical Group to be located in Quincy, Illinois. Now, more than ever, women and families are seeking out-of-hospital births. This birth center will provide a home-like setting and provide patients a choice on the type of birthing experience they would like with the comfort and safety that expecting families desire.

Not only do birth centers lower the cost of birth expenses, but they provide enormous health benefits. Birth centers also aim to reduce the staggering health disparities that exist for indigenous pregnant individuals and are successfully making a difference around the country. The current Covid-19 crisis has highlighted even more the importance of community-based care settings like birth centers keeping healthy folks out of the hospital and help to reduce the transmission to vulnerable populations like pregnant clients.

This birth center will be an asset to the Quincy and surrounding communities. It will provide a dedicated place for physicians and certified nurse midwives to practice as well as increase job opportunities for nurses and needed support staff. This center will also be a community hub for prenatal education, prenatal fitness, and a gathering space for organizations serving expecting families. I encourage you to strongly consider support for this birth center project.

Sincerely,

Dr. Christopher Jones
Obstetrics/Gynecologist

CJ/sf





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This center will be a community hub for prenatal education, prenatal fitness, and a gathering space for organizations serving expecting families. I encourage you to strongly consider support for this birth center project.

Sincerely,

Lila Brooks Fritz
Certified Nurse Midwife

LBF/sf



To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter in support of Quincy Medical Group's application to open a Birth Center as part of their intent to expand services in our community. While I could speak at length about the need for improved access to healthcare and lower cost for women in our community, I will instead take this opportunity to impress on you the importance of this endeavor to improve the quality of life for both women and their families.

The Midwifery Care model takes a holistic approach putting the patient and their family at the center of every decision when it comes to bringing life into the world. Each patient is educated about their bodies and the changes that happen throughout and after pregnancy. They are encouraged to take control of their healthcare and become active leaders in the decision-making process. The birth process is the first time many women are faced with healthcare choices not only for themselves, but for their baby. With the Midwifery model of care, women are provided choices for how they choose to bring life into their world. They have a say in what elective screenings and tests are performed. They are encouraged to make decisions that are best for their bodies and themselves. They are prepared and knowledgeable about what is happening to their bodies. They are prepared to bring life into the world without fear.

For me, this Birth Center application is truly a labor of love and one that I am most passionate about. I have been in healthcare for 13 years. I worked initially in a physical therapy setting and had the privilege of working with women antenatal and postpartum. After having my first child in 2014, I became even more passionate about Women's Health. I was fortunate to have a foundation of knowledge regarding access to resources on how to improve my physical and mental wellbeing before, during, and after pregnancy. I was my own advocate because I understood my choices.

In May 2020, I graduated with my Bachelors of Nursing from Blessing Riemann. I entered nursing school in the accelerated program two years' prior with the intent that I would not stop with just a simple career change. My goal has always been to serve my community as a Certified Nurse Midwife and, today, I am one step closer. I started classes this summer toward that goal.

I would also like to add that the Obstetricians and Gynecologists that work for Quincy Medical Group provide the highest quality of care for their patients. These providers will be excellent partners in providing support and an extension of care for the birth center, when needed. This partnership will result in the continued improvement of women's healthcare for generations to come.

In closing, I am reminded daily that many women feel uncomfortable with their own bodies, unsure of normal, and unsure of themselves. Every day, I come to work with a smile and a goal to change someone's day. To learn something new. To empower. To advocate. This Birth Center will do many things for our community, but more importantly, it will do many things for mothers, daughters, families by giving them an active voice and additional birth choices. Please allow their voices to be heard.

Sincerely,



Amelia D. Hobbs, BSN-RN, ATC
Future Midwife