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KIMBERLY A. LIGHTFORD
SENATE MAJORITY LEADER
STATE SENATOR • 4TH DISTRICT

COMMITTEES:

ASSIGNMENTS
CHAIRPERSON
EDUCATION
LABOR
EXECUTIVE
APPROPRIATIONS –
EDUCATION
APPROPRIATIONS –
PERSONNEL &
PROCUREMENT

March 30, 2022

Member Kenneth Burnett
Member Antoinette Hardy-Waller
Member Linda Rae Murray, MD
Members of the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson, Second Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

Re: Quincy Medical Group Hospital, Project No. 20-044
Quincy Medical Group Birth Center, Project No. 21-029

Dear Board Members Burnett, Hardy-Waller, and Dr. Murray:

I am writing regarding the proposed Quincy Medical Group Birth Center and Quincy Medical Group Hospital.

I have been representing the 4th District residents since 1998 and currently serve as the Illinois Senate Majority Leader. I am well known as a passionate champion for improving the lives of working families, particularly by tackling inequities in education and health care. These two areas have seen decades of unequal treatment, and its long past time that we confront these harsh realities and began to help level the playing field.

It is in this vein that I write to you today. Quincy Medical Group's drive to improve the affordability and access to health care is critically vital for Western Illinois, particularly their efforts to promote health equity, resolve healthcare disparities, and improve maternal health outcomes. For example, a recent study found that women in the region pay outrageously high prices for women's health care compared to even places like St. Louis, where many of them are forced to seek more affordable care.

The proposed QMG Birth Center and QMG Hospital will provide area residents with a natural choice, the kind they haven't had in decades. The projects will also enable Quincy Medical Group to continue its efforts to close gaps that exacerbate health disparities and health inequities, especially concerning maternal health.

As a board member, I would ask that you consider all aspects of the proposed projects and especially the ability of these projects to lower costs and improve access to vital healthcare services. And after you've considered these projects, please vote in favor of Quincy Medical Group Hospital and Quincy Medical Group Birth Center.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in red ink that reads "Kimberly A. Lightford".

Kimberly A. Lightford
Illinois Senate Majority Leader
State Senator | 4th District

cc: Members of the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
Sincerely,