



OUR VISION: "SERVING THE WHOLE MAN  
MIND, BODY AND SOUL"

# Union Baptist Church

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*T. Ray McJunkins*  
Senior Pastor

March 30, 2022

Stacy Grundy  
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board  
525 West Jefferson, Second Floor  
Springfield, IL 62761

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

Dear Ms. Grundy,

As Lead Pastor of Union Baptist Church, I spend much of my time ministering to our community on health care and particularly at our Saturday health clinics. As you know all too well, for those of us in minority communities, access to health care can be difficult. Far too often we don't have the same options for high quality care we can afford that our wealthier, Caucasian brothers and sisters have. I am sending this letter to you in support of the Quincy Medical Group applications for a birth center and small hospital in the hope that you will take the concerns of our community into your heart as you decide whether to vote to approve these important projects.

The first project I would like to address is the Birth Center. Having a baby is a most blessed event, but for too many the experience is quite difficult, outrageously expensive and unnecessarily unpleasant. Our community has a long history of coming together to support women as they go through this journey. This is one of the reasons, I rise today and lend my voice in support of creating another birthing option for women in Western Illinois who do not need all the services of a traditional hospital and I encourage you to do the same.

Also, when only one option for hospital care is available, it is often far more expensive which has a disproportionate effect on communities of color. The inability to afford care is the same as not being able to access care. That has been a particular problem for residents in the Western and particularly the Central Western part of our state, especially for women. Some of our hospital services are among the most expensive in the state, which results in our needing to drive long distances for more affordable, quality care. Having another option, particularly one that is small and tailored to the community needs seems like a very reasonable approach.

So, I ask you to consider supporting these important projects and to consider the effect of adding vital health care options on communities of color. Once you do, I hope you'll agree and vote yes.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

T. Ray McJunkins, Lead Pastor  
Union Baptist Church

cc: Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board Members