



KAMBIUM ELIJAH BUCKNER

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

STATE OF ILLINOIS

April 1, 2022

David Fox, Board Member
Sandra Martell, Board Member
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson, Second Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

Re: Quincy Medical Group Hospital
Quincy Medical Group Birth Center

Dear Chair Savage,

On behalf of the Illinois Legislative Black Caucus, I reach out to you today on a matter of concern. As you know, the ability to readily access affordable health care often eludes people of color. In our communities, too often we find inferior and more expensive health care options are the norm.

Our people are often the most vulnerable members of the community and this can clearly be seen with our more limited health care options. This is especially true in the area of women's health care and maternal health, where Western Illinois has seen some of the highest costs in the state. The Quincy Medical Group's proposals for a Birth Center and small Hospital would go a long way toward helping alleviate these problems.

The Birth Center would give women who don't have health care complications an opportunity to give birth in a warmer and less institutional environment. And while some have expressed concern about the existing hospital, this QMG proposal for a very small second hospital is a reasonable and targeted approach to reintroduce competition that will help make these services better, more affordable and more accessible.

These are the kinds of options that our communities value but seldom get so I hope you will join me in supporting these valuable projects. It's time to tackle the health inequities and health disparities in our communities and this is an important step in that direction. Once you've carefully evaluated all aspects of these projects, I hope you will see your way clear to vote to approve these important applications.

Thanks for your service to the board and thanks for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kam Buckner".

Kam Buckner
Illinois State Representative
Chair, House Legislative Black Caucus