

April Simmons, Legal Counsel
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson, Second Floor
Springfield, IL 62761
Re: Quincy Medical Group Birth Center, Project #21-029
Date: 4/4/2022

I would like to offer my personal testimony as a local example in Quincy, Illinois, of the current nationwide maternal and postpartum public health crisis, and why the addition of the Quincy Medical Group Birth Center is so important.

I am a resident of Quincy and was 33 years old, healthy, and considered a low risk pregnancy with my third child in 2018, pre Covid. I was very intentional in choosing to deliver my baby in a "baby friendly" facility. No birth centers were available in my area, so I settled on a women's care center 15 miles outside of Quincy, and across state lines in Missouri. This women's care center allowed me to develop my own delivery plan, strongly encouraged and supported mother/baby bonding and breastfeeding, and offered a family centered care delivery model that was otherwise not offered in Quincy. I also did not want to deliver in a hospital setting; I wanted a more natural and comfortable setting. I believe providing the women in Quincy and the surrounding area a secondary option for maternal care, delivery and postpartum follow up, outside of a hospital setting is very important. My delivery was successful and a great experience for me and my family. My complication came seven days after delivery in Quincy's local hospital and nearly died. I greatly appreciate your time in reading my story.

I developed secondary postpartum hemorrhage seven days after I delivered my son in 2018. I was home alone with my newborn and I began feeling lightheaded so I called my neighbor for help. He took my son and I stood up to go to the bathroom and found myself sitting in bright red blood. I immediately called 911. I was transported to the emergency room in Quincy's hospital where I lay on the hospital cart for six hours; my husband and newborn at my side so I could continue to breastfeed. The staff caring for me ordered the typical tests and checked an ultrasound. There was thickening in my endometrium, and the report indicated retained products could not be ruled out. My hemoglobin was 10.5 g/dl; overall not too concerning to health care professionals with no special training in maternal and postpartum care. The on-call OBGYN was notified; no new orders were given and I was not seen. I received some intravenous fluids in the ER and was advised things were stable. I was served my discharge papers. I know my body very well and knew I was hemorrhaging. I protested and demanded to be admitted to the mother/baby unit where I could stay with my baby to get the care I needed, and to continue breastfeeding. This was not in line with hospital policy, even though my husband was with me. I was also told I didn't qualify for admission to the mother/baby unit. I didn't know what to do. The ER staff ended up offering to admit me to the observation unit for monitoring and to check my lab work in the morning. Again, I was not allowed to have my husband or baby with me. I considered discharging home to monitor my bleeding. I was completely horrified with my care options. I stood up to walk to the bathroom and started passing softball size blood clots. The nursing aide helped me collect them in the basin to prove to the ER doctor I needed help. I began to pass out again and my husband ran for help. My blood pressure was 60/40 and I received more IV fluids. I did not receive a vaginal exam as part of my care and my blood loss was not measured; a standard of care and quality measure in postpartum bleeding. I then called my OBGYN in

Missouri; I explained to him what was happening. He advised that he would direct admit me to the women's hospital where I delivered seven days before. I demanded the ER staff have an ambulance transport me to my team of experts. I remember being very cold during my transport and had to be covered with heated blankets as I was experiencing hemorrhagic shock. The IV fluids I was receiving were not supporting my blood pressure. I am a God-fearing woman, and I can tell you He was with me in that deeply vulnerable moment. I had peace. I prayed that I would live, to stay with my husband and children to watch them grow. I arrived at the women's hospital in Missouri at 1:00 AM, and my OBGYN and specialized OB care team were there and ready to help me. Dr. John Bennett saved my life that night. He firmly pressed on my abdomen and a blood clot the size of my newborn was passed from my body. I was immediately intubated and went for D & C. The bleeding was not stopping and they were going to give me uncrossmatched blood. The bleeding did finally subside and my pressures stabilized. We were able to wait for the crossmatched blood and I was given multiple units. When I woke up, I was met with my baby and husband who stayed with me in my recovery suite. There were no restrictions or set visiting hours. I breastfed my son as soon as we were reunited. I knew I was safe.

I do believe if we had a birth center in place in Quincy at the time I delivered, the lack of postpartum care I received wouldn't have been possible. I would have called my local midwife or OBGYN for help. I am advocating for all of the women in Quincy and the surrounding area, as well as women collectively on a nationwide level. I urge you to please consider the Quincy Medical Group Birth Center for our community.

I greatly appreciate your time and consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K Weems-Pales'.

Karen Weems-Pales

April Simmons, Legal Counsel
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson, Second Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

Re: Quincy Medical Group Birth Center, Project #21-029

Date: 4/6/22

Dear Ms. Simmons,

I am writing in support of Quincy Medical Group Birth Center because, as a member of this community, I believe it will allow for affordable choice in care for women's health.

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Sincerely,

Signature: Angela Puls

Printed name: Angela Puls

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Re: Quincy Medical Group Birth Center, Project #21-029

Date: 4-6-2022

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Sincerely,

Signature: Kathy Evans

Printed name: Kathy Evans

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Re: Quincy Medical Group Birth Center, Project #21-029

Date: APR 6 2022

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Sincerely,

Signature: 

Printed name: AMY A CRAMER

April Simmons, Legal Counsel
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson, Second Floor
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Re: Quincy Medical Group Birth Center, Project #21-029

Date: 4/5/22

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Sincerely,

Signature: Mary Walters

Printed name: Mary Walters

April Simmons, Legal Counsel
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson, Second Floor
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Re: Quincy Medical Group Birth Center, Project #21-029

Date: 4-06-2022

Dear Ms. Simmons,

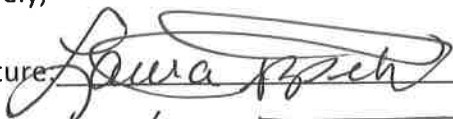
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Sincerely,

Signature: 
Printed name: Laura Tippett

April Simmons, Legal Counsel
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Sincerely,

Signature: Nathan A. Pappas

Printed name: Nathan A. Pappas

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Sincerely,

Signature: Wendy Brodie

Printed name: Wendy Brodie

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Sincerely,

Signature: Elizabeth Waring

Printed name: Elizabeth Waring CNA

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Sincerely,

Signature: Rhonda Warrington

Printed name: Rhonda Warrington

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Sincerely,

Signature: Tracey Thomas

Printed name: Tracey Thomas

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Sincerely,

Signature:

Jessi Vahle

Printed name:

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Signature: Chad Sadler

Printed name: Chad Sadler

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Sincerely,

Signature: Kimberly Stotts

Printed name: Kimberly Stotts

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Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
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Re: Quincy Medical Group Birth Center, Project #21-029

Date: April 5, 2022

Dear Ms. Simmons,

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Sincerely,

Signature: Cindy Perrine

Printed name: Cindy Perrine

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Signature: Nancy Huddleston

Printed name: Nancy Huddleston

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Sincerely,

Signature: 

Printed name: Jeni Yaeger

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Signature:

Brenda Coon

Printed name:

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Printed name:

Stacey Schutte

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Signature: Kristie Haubrich

Printed name: Kristie Haubrich

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Sincerely,

Signature: 

Printed name: Terry Montgomery

April Simmons, Legal Counsel
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson, Second Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

Re: Quincy Medical Group Birth Center, Project #21-029

Date: 4/5/22

Dear Ms. Simmons,

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Sincerely,

Signature: Emily Kipley RN

Printed name: Emily Kipley RN

April Simmons, Legal Counsel
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson, Second Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

Re: Quincy Medical Group Birth Center, Project #21-029

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Sincerely,

Signature: Tolanda Hickman

Printed name: Tolanda Hickman

April Simmons, Legal Counsel
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson, Second Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

Re: Quincy Medical Group Birth Center, Project #21-029

Date: 4/5/2022

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Sincerely,

Signature: Frances Harmon

Printed name: Frances Harmon

April Simmons, Legal Counsel
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson, Second Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

Re: Quincy Medical Group Birth Center, Project #21-029

Date: 4-5-22

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Sincerely,

Signature:



Printed name:

Kennedy Burton

April Simmons, Legal Counsel
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson, Second Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

Re: Quincy Medical Group Birth Center, Project #21-029

Date: 4/5/22

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Sincerely,

Signature: Michelle Dean

Printed name: Michelle Dean

April Simmons, Legal Counsel
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson, Second Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

Re: Quincy Medical Group Birth Center, Project #21-029

Date: 4/5/2022

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Sincerely,

Signature: R Green

Printed name: Rachel Green

April Simmons, Legal Counsel
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson, Second Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

Re: Quincy Medical Group Birth Center, Project #21-029

Date: 4-5-22

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Sincerely,

Signature: Susan Ronsor CNA

Printed name: Susan Ronsor CNA

April Simmons, Legal Counsel
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson, Second Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

Re: Quincy Medical Group Birth Center, Project #21-029

Date: 4 - 5 - 22

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Sincerely,

Signature: Debbie Johnson

Printed name: Debbie Johnson

April Simmons, Legal Counsel
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson, Second Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

Re: Quincy Medical Group Birth Center, Project #21-029

Date: 4-5-22

Dear Ms. Simmons,

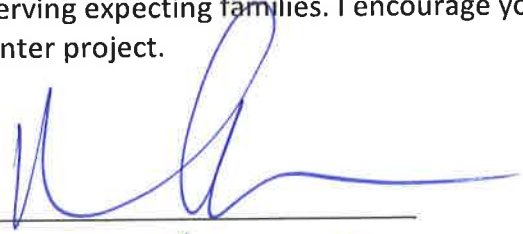
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Sincerely,

Signature: 

Printed name: MARY Nieramp

April Simmons, Legal Counsel
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson, Second Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

Re: Quincy Medical Group Birth Center, Project #21-029

Date: 3-5-22

Dear Ms. Simmons,

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Sincerely,

Signature: Kecia Ward

Printed name: Kecia Ward

April Simmons, Legal Counsel
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson, Second Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

Re: Quincy Medical Group Birth Center, Project #21-029

Date: 04-05-2022

Dear Ms. Simmons,

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Sincerely,

Signature: Deandrea Dickson

Printed name: Deandrea Dickson

April Simmons, Legal Counsel
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson, Second Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

Re: Quincy Medical Group Birth Center, Project #21-029

Date: April 5, 2022

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Sincerely,

Signature: Debra S. Perkins

Printed name: Debra S. Perkins

April Simmons, Legal Counsel
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson, Second Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

Re: Quincy Medical Group Birth Center, Project #21-029

Date: 4/5/22

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Sincerely,

Signature: Casey L Muehning

Printed name: Casey L Muehning

April Simmons, Legal Counsel
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson, Second Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

Re: Quincy Medical Group Birth Center, Project #21-029

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Sincerely,

Signature: Colette White

Printed name: Colette White

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

Re: Quincy Medical Group Birth Center, Project #21-029

Date: April 5, 2022

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Sincerely,

Signature: Pam Fessler

Printed name: Pam Fessler

April Simmons, Legal Counsel
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson, Second Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

Re: Quincy Medical Group Birth Center, Project #21-029

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Sincerely,

Signature:



Printed name:

Tasha Rothweiler

April Simmons, Legal Counsel
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson, Second Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

Re: Quincy Medical Group Birth Center, Project #21-029

Date: 4/5/22

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Sincerely,

Signature: Meridith Reed RN

Printed name: Meridith Reed

April Simmons, Legal Counsel
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson, Second Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

Re: Quincy Medical Group Birth Center, Project #21-029

Date: April 4, 2022

Dear Ms. Simmons,

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Sincerely,

Signature: Phyllis Jane Logue

Printed name: Phyllis Jane Logue

April Simmons, Legal Counsel
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson, Second Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

Re: Quincy Medical Group Birth Center, Project #21-029

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Sincerely,

Signature: Tamara L Conrad

Printed name: Tamara L Conrad