

Chicago South Side Birth Center

Dear Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board,

I write this to express our support of the Chicago South Side Birth Center. I am the (director the Birth Center at PCC/CEO of PCC/etc.) located in Berwyn, the first freestanding birth center in the state of Illinois. As the Director and continued supporter of birth centers, I understand the importance of having access to a birth center on the south side of Chicago.

Freestanding birth centers are safe, evidence-based spaces in communities where families can feel welcomed and supported by qualified and trained midwives. We have seen over the last ten years what this kind of space can offer a family. Birth Centers offer physical, emotional, social, and educational support as families gain the confidence and skills to care for themselves and their children.

The south side of Chicago, had the highest rates of severe maternal morbidity for Black women and has the highest infant mortality rates for Black babies. With this escalating maternal and infant health crisis, it is important that Chicago South Side Birth Center is open and meeting the needs of that community. Chicago South Side Birth Center is well centered in this community and can play a pivotal role in working to interrupt these devastating outcomes.

PCC Community Wellness and the Birth Center at PCC supports the Chicago South Side Birth Center and look forward to building a sustainability community birth infrastructure alongside them for years to come.

Sincerely,