



melanated
MIDWIVES

KARIE E. STEWART, MPH, CNM
MELANATED MIDWIVES
FOUNDER

(708) 320-3360
WWW.MELANATEDMIDWIVES.ORG
melanatedmidwives@gmail.com
■ melanatedmidwives
■ melanatedmidwives

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Karie E. Stewart
Melanated Midwives, NFP
Chicago, IL 60605

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of Melanated Midwives, NFP we are submitting a letter of support regarding the leadership of Jeanine Valrie Logan and her team in bringing more birth options to the South Side of Chicago. We are excited and wholeheartedly in support of the Chicago South Side Birth Center. We strongly support their efforts, continued service, advocacy, and commitment to the Black birthing people of the South Side of Chicago.

As an organization that understands the importance and positive effect of providing racial concordant care to Black birthing people, we are dedicated to supporting the efforts of the South Side of Chicago in addressing the maternal health desert crisis. The Chicago South Side Birth Center will be a much-needed birthing option. As you know the South Side of Chicago has been affected by the closure of several hospitals and Labor & Delivery units over the past 5 years. As Melanated Midwives diversifies the midwifery profession we plan to support student midwives of color that will one day be employed by the Chicago South Side Birth Center and serving Black birthing families in their own communities.

Melanated Midwives fully supports the Chicago South Side Birth Center. We believe the Chicago South Side Birth Center is a viable and emergent solution for Black women, Black birthing people, Black infants and children on the South Side and serve as a model of exemplary maternal health care for other urban communities.

We highly recommend the approval of the Chicago South Side Birth Center as a necessity in addressing a maternal health crisis and eliminating health disparities in our Black neighborhoods. The Chicago South Side Birth Center will help achieve birth and health equity, which is long overdue to our communities.

Sincerely,

Karie E. Stewart, **MPH, MSN, CNM, APRN**
CEO & Founder
Melanated Midwives, NFP