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May 7, 2024

Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson Street, 2nd Floor
Springfield, 62761

Re: Chicago South Side Birth Center

Dear Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board,

This letter is in support of the Chicago South Side Birth Center. As one of the first freestanding birth centers in the State of Illinois, PCC understands the importance of individuals having access to a birth center on the South Side of Chicago.

Freestanding birthing centers offer patients a calm and soothing environment where families feel supported throughout their child birthing experience. The birthing center model offers patients a care team such as a midwife, a doula, and other supporting members to ensure patients receive the proper care through postpartum. 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 has some of the highest rates of maternal morbidity for Black women and has the highest infant mortality rates for Black babies in Illinois. With this escalating maternal and infant health crisis, the Chicago South Side Birth Center must remain open to serve as a viable resource to residents in the communities it serves. Chicago South Side Birth Center is anchored in the community and may play a pivotal role in improving the health outcomes of babies and mothers.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Alyssa Sianghio'.

Alyssa Sianghio
President and CEO