A Woman's Connection, P.C.

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HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

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

March 17, 2015

RE: Support for Bloomington-Normal Birthing Center, LLC

Dear Members of the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board,

I am writing in support of the application from the Bloomington-Normal Birthing Center, LLC to bring a birthing center to Bloomington-Normal. This center will offer a new service not otherwise offered in McLean County or anywhere in downstate Illinois at this time. Even more exciting than the idea of a first-of-its-kind birthing center in this region is the overall community benefit that will come from having this center in our community.

The Bloomington-Normal Birthing Center will offer an out of hospital birthing service to Central Illinois women within a 60 mile radius of the twin cities. Having this option available will curtail both the growing trend of at-home births nationally and help decrease the unnecessarily high cesarean rate and associated costs in this community. The Center also plans to offer an array of educational classes including childbirth education, diet/exercise, as well as pregnancy massage/yoga and support group options for our patients. I think the Birthing Center has the potential to work with other area agencies, such as the McLean County Health Department, to bring a much needed option for prenatal care to our community.

Thank you for taking the time to consider supporting this important venture. I urge the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board to approve the application for Bloomington-Normal Birthing Center.

Sincerely,

Liz Jennings-Porter CNM

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