CITY OF Bloomington ILLINOIS

Tari Renner, Mayor
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Bloomington, Illinois 61702-3157

RECEIVED
MAR 30 2015
HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

March 25, 2015

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

RE: APPLICATION #15-006 FOR "BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL BIRTHING CENTER"

As the Mayor of Bloomington, Illinois, I fully support application #15-006 for "Bloomington-Normal Birthing Center." This new birthing center is supported by many of our citizens and multiple local health care organizations. In addition, the birthing center will provide service to a health professional shortage area, as determined by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Bringing an alternative healthcare delivery model such as a birth center to our community will help stimulate job opportunities in health services and also provide a dedicated place for certified nurse midwives and doulas to practice their profession. Our citizens have shown a strong interest in safe alternatives for an out-of-hospital birth experience and are looking to reduce the rate of C-sections. Having a local birthing center in Bloomington will better align cost with the actual needs of our local low-risk maternity patients who are generally healthy as well as motivated and engaged to seek the best possible care for themselves and their baby.

I believe that Bloomington-Normal presents a unique location for a birthing center in Central Illinois due to the City's strategic location, easy interstate access, and a wide variety of family-friendly amenities. We also have many outdoor facilities including Miller Park Zoo, The Children's Discovery Museum, Constitution Trail and other wonderful parks, which include our award-winning McGraw Park, located less than a mile away from the proposed location of this birthing center. My hope would be that expectant mothers from around Central Illinois would come to Bloomington for their prenatal care and delivery and then stay to enjoy all that our community has to offer.

Sincerely,

Tari Renner

Tari Renner
Mayor
City of Bloomington

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