



Well into the future

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March 16, 2009

The Honorable Congresswoman Tammy Baldwin
1022 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Baldwin:

On behalf of Columbus Community Hospital, please accept our request for FY10 federal appropriations to enhance our women's and childbirth services.

Columbus Community Hospital (CCH) has provided obstetrical care to the city of Columbus and the surrounding communities since our founding over one hundred years ago. Three years ago, our only OB/GYN left our community, thus creating a very large gap in the level of service our patients rightfully expect from us. Two family practitioner physicians have done a superb job of maintaining this important service while we actively sought recruitment of another OB/GYN. However, this meant that for many complex or higher risk births (including twins), patients and their families had to travel many miles for care that clearly should be available close to home.

This potentially hazardous situation will change next month, as we are extremely excited to have Mark Torres, DO, join the community and CCH on April 2, 2009 as our new OB/GYN. With this expertise and skill, many expectant parents will again seek care locally rather than having no other choice but to travel to Madison or elsewhere. They will need and deserve a modern obstetrical unit, with a dedicated operating room (for C-sections and other procedures). Unfortunately, our current unit has not been upgraded in over a generation. Thus, this is about more than convenience; it is about helping save lives and deliver the best care possible, close to home.

Patients simply should not have to travel far for OB/GYN services. As President and CEO of CCH, I am proud of how committed our entire team is to meeting our mission: "To identify and meet the healthcare and wellness needs of the people and communities we serve". This project, and your assistance, will help us fulfill that mission.

We invite you and your staff to visit with us to discuss this further and to tour our facility. I look forward to continuing to work with you, and can be reached directly at (920) 623-1367.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Ed Harding'.

Edward A. Harding, FACHE
President & CEO
Columbus Community Hospital