**EMAIL TEMPLATE**

Dear [INSERT NAME],

I am writing to ask you to reconsider the planned closure of the Burdett Birth Center in Troy. As a member of United Way of the Greater Capital Region’s Women United, we advocate for the health and wellbeing of all women and children in the Capital Region and beyond. If the proposal to shutter Burdett goes through, a harmful burden will be placed on expectant mothers in our community.

Along with our partners in the Save Burdett Birth Center Coalition, United Way is passionate about eliminating barriers to quality, affordable health care. Leaving Rensselaer County without a maternity ward would be a dangerous step in the wrong direction. By forcing mothers and their babies to travel longer distances to receive prenatal, delivery, and postnatal care, families will face added expense and time away from home and work.

With slightly more than half of its patients eligible for Medicaid, Burdett has been a lifeline for many of the most vulnerable members of our community. Closing its doors would have a disproportionate impact on Brown and BIPOC families who call Troy and the rest of Rensselaer County home. In a community where access to care is already limited, this would halt years of progress toward building a more equitable healthcare system in the Capital Region.

Earlier this spring Senator Charles Schumer secured nearly $200 million in federal funds for Capital Region hospitals through a change in the Medicare reimbursement process. At a time when our local health care system is set to receive a record influx of revenue*,* we believe providing safe, affordable, and convenient care for mothers and their children should remain our highest priority. United Way and Women United are committed to working alongside all local stakeholders to find a solution that results in Burdett staying open and remaining a vital resource for our community.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

[INSERT YOUR NAME HERE]

Women United Member

United Way of the Greater Capital Region

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