

Subject Line: **Please Support SB 1122/HB 1047 to Protect Healthcare Access in Broward County**

I am writing to respectfully urge you to support **SB 1122/HB 1047**, legislation that will allow Broward County's two public hospital systems, Broward Health and Memorial Healthcare System, to work collaboratively to better serve our community.

Many Broward families already face significant barriers to care. In some neighborhoods, pregnant women must travel 30 to 45 minutes for prenatal services, families leave the county to find pediatric or specialty care, and access to emergency and behavioral health services remains limited. As our public safety net providers, Broward Health and Memorial cannot walk away from these essential services. Collaboration is the best way to protect access to care for Broward families.

Independently, these two public hospitals have invested more than \$1.5 billion in new facilities, emergency departments, maternity services, and mobile clinics in underserved areas. However, outdated rules are now limiting their ability to collaborate and expand care efficiently.

SB 1122/HB 1047 addresses this challenge by establishing a clear state policy that allows collaboration between public hospital systems without a merger and while preserving separate governance and operations, all while maintaining full transparency and accountability under Florida's Sunshine Laws. Similar frameworks are already working successfully in more than 20 states.

By supporting this legislation, you will help:

- Expand access to maternity, pediatric, and behavioral health care;
- Improve physician recruitment, retention, and specialty coverage;
- Deploy mobile health units and community-based clinics in high-need neighborhoods;
- Reduce persistent health disparities, including infant mortality; and
- Keep healthcare dollars invested locally in Broward County.

Collaboration between our public hospitals is a practical, proven way to protect access to care and strengthen our local healthcare system. I respectfully ask for your support of **SB 1122/HB 1047** on behalf of Broward families.

Thank you for your time and service to our community.