



Amy "Murri" Briel

State Representative • 76th District

July 23, 2025

To the Health Facilities Board:

I write to you to express my deep concern over Project - 25-0313, the OSF CON for the discontinuation of OB and ICU services at the Ottawa Hospital. I have been witness to the lack of transparency, unwillingness to consider any optional proposals, refusal to release non-HIPAA protected data, lack of engagement for a solution for the transportation nightmare and burden placed on our first responders, and a personal conversation with an OSF executive that shocked me because he said the quiet parts out loud.

As a state representative, I can confidently say that we don't always get things right. About seven years ago, the legislature passed a law—well-intentioned but heavily influenced by the fearmongering of the industrial health complex. That law created loopholes that corporations like OSF have since exploited to monopolize services and prioritize profit over care. As a Representative, I am actively working to find a way to undo what has been done, but it will take time, and that does not change where we are today. I have also filed an inquiry with the Attorney General to investigate the business practices of OSF.

What I find most galling about the decisions of OSF is the hypocrisy of the organization. These decisions are not based on their mantra of caring for the community, but instead on what is best for their bottom line. I fear that the lack of respect OSF shows for this board and the community is why they are brazenly moving forward, whether with or without your approval. On July 1, 2025, OSF leadership met with hospital employees and informed them that ICU beds would be converted to Intermediate Care beds, effective August 18, well in advance of any decision by this board. This, and many more interactions, lead me to believe that they do not respect the authority of this board or the needs of the patients they serve.

It is past time to reimagine healthcare, but this "proposal" is only good for the bottom line of OSF and not for our communities that will be impacted. An approval will truly be devastating to a thriving and growing community. I urge you to stand with us as we demand real healthcare by denying the CON for Project 25-0313.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'AM', is located below the word 'Sincerely,'.

Amy "Murri" Briel

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76th District

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