

For E-008-25

-----Original Message-----

From: Hayley Ferber <hferbrn@comcast.net>

Sent: Tuesday, July 22, 2025 10:06 AM

To: DPH.HFSRB <DPH.HFSRB@Illinois.gov>

Subject: [External] CLOSER OF ASCENSION ALEXIAN BROTHERS MATERNITY DEPARTMENT

To whom it may concern,

I am a nurse at Ascension Alexian Brothers in Elk Grove Village where I have spent my 30 year nursing career. So It was recently announced that Alexian Brothers will no longer provide maternity services to the community, pending approval of the state. I am sending this email in hopes that this closure can still be denied.

Alexian Brothers delivers between 100-130 babies per month. The current plan put forth by the Ascension executives is for the majority of these patients to deliver at St. Alexius in Hoffman Estates, while the others will follow their providers to other hospital systems. This news is alarming and worrisome for several reasons. First of all, it goes against the state's initiatives to provide access to care, equitable care, and to reduce maternal complications. My biggest concern, however, is how will St. Alexius be able to provide space in their current department for the influx of new patients? Theirs is already an extremely busy unit, and adding 100+ deliveries a month may be detrimental to the community. My fear is some woman may not receive the safe care they deserve due to poor staffing ratios and lack of space to schedule necessary procedures. I would also like to bring to your attention that Ascension has submitted a separate application to expand their Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) at St. Alexius from 16 to 30 beds, citing frequent instances of maximum capacity (E-007-25). This application was submitted as recent as May 2025, with a projected completion timeline of 24 months. According to the letter from our Perinatal Center supporting their expansion, St. Alexius' NICU already has an average daily census of 15.2 in a 16-bed unit in CY22—confirming that they are operating at or near full capacity. This brings about the concern of how St Alexius will be able to absorb the additional NICU babies from Alexian Brothers.

The Ascension administration has told the nursing staff that the closure will take place by October 1. It is my request that you seriously consider the impact this closure will have on our community, and consider denying their request.

Thank you,
Hayley Ferber, RN