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To: DPH.HFSRB@illinois.gov

Subject: Potential closure of Labor & Delivery at Alexian Brothers in Elk Grove Village, Illinois

To whom it may concern:

I am writing in regards to the potential closure of Labor & Delivery at Alexian Brothers in Elk Grove Village, Illinois.

I AM STRONGLY OPPOSED!

As a community member & health care provider, this is going to be a big mistake to the community of Elk Grove & surrounding suburbs if this decision goes through.

I started my career as a candy striper at Alexian Brothers while I was in high school 45 years ago.

After Nursing School, my first job was also at Alexian Brothers in 1985 and to this day, I am 60 years old and I am still on staff there.

Not only is this a community hospital, but a hospital where families go to and depend on "full service" medical care. From the birth of our babies to the death of our grandparents, this has been a family medical facility, as well as all of our relatives and friends throughout the suburban area surrounding ALEXIAN BROTHERS.

My husband has also delivered over 10,000 babies at ALEXIAN BROTHERS throughout his 40 year career as an OB/GYN at this hospital.

Obstetrics is the foundation of a family. If a woman can no longer go to ALEXIAN BROTHERS for the birth of her baby, the care will shift completely, including pediatrics, including specialties and including emergency room services as well since pediatrics is also no longer in existence here either.

Women drive the family healthcare, and if women cannot have their obstetrician/gynecologist at this facility, they will no longer come here for gynecology or mammography or any other services.

Women also ask their gynecologist for specialty care recommendations and all of these services will shift to other facilities and it will be a huge decline for all services at ALEXIAN BROTHERS if this happens.

And remember, the people who live in Elk Grove or east of Elk Grove or south of Elk Grove or even north of Elk Grove will not travel all the way to Saint Alexius so that will impact the goal of shifting Female Healthcare to St. Alexius if that's what they are trying to accomplish.

The nurses and physicians that actually work in this department were never asked their thoughts or opinions on this decision. We were also lied to and never told the truth regarding this proposal. To this day, there is huge controversy between administration and this department because of the constant lies circulating.

The Labor & Delivery department is extremely busy on a daily basis, and in my opinion, there is no reason to close a department that is flourishing and doing a wonderful job for their patients.

This unit has great potential however we have had staffing cuts and physicians who have gone elsewhere due to contract negotiations, and those spots were never filled nor has there been any physician integration to bring in new doctors or to hire more nurses when we have been in need for several years. That is what administration is suppose to do to help a department thrive. Instead they have been sabotaging our success to accomplish their goal of closing the department.

Ascension Healthcare System has been driving this hospital to the ground & there is no reason for it.

If there is a loss in revenue for Labor & Delivery, perhaps the hospital administration should take a look at their House Officer Program for Labor & Delivery since it costs millions per year and is ran very poorly & inefficiently & costing the department a lot of money per year. We have suggested for years that they terminate this program and consider having medical residents instead at a fraction of the cost of the House Officer Program.

Also, if their other reasoning is because there is a large public aid patient population in Labor & Delivery, that doesn't, however, mean that healthcare should be denied to women regarding their economic situation. I might add, though, that there is also a very large population of public aid that also goes through the operating room department and

emergency room and throughout the entire hospital as well. Those patients are not being denied care so why should this pertain to women's healthcare?

To close this department would be a great disservice to the community of Elk Grove Village and to the surrounding suburbs.

In my opinion, this is a terrible mistake & feel it would be a very poor decision.

Thank you for your time in this matter.

Mrs. Estelle Mruz