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SEP 29 2025

HEALTH FACILITIES &
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

September 16, 2025

Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson Street
Springfield, IL 62761

Re: Opposition to the Closure of the Maternity Unit at Alexian Brothers Medical Center - Project E-008-25

Dear Members of the Board:

On behalf of the residents of the Village of Itasca, I am writing to express our opposition to the proposed closure of the maternity unit at Alexian Brothers Medical Center (ABMC) in Elk Grove Village.

Currently, the distance from the Itasca Fire Protection District to ABMC is approximately **3.4 miles, or 9 minutes**. This accessibility is critical during emergencies, when every minute can mean the difference between life and death for both mother and child.

Should the maternity unit close, Itasca's residents and emergency personnel would be forced to travel much farther. The facility Ascension has designated for diversion, St. Alexius Medical Center in Hoffman Estates, is **11.2 miles away, or 24 minutes**. The closest hospital, with equal or better perinatal level of care, will be Northwest Community Hospital in Arlington Heights, which is **9.7 miles away, or 21 minutes**. These distances represent more than double the current response time. Delays in access to labor and delivery services, as well as advanced neonatal care, increase the risks of adverse outcomes in obstetric emergencies.

I urge the Board to consider the significant public safety and public health implications of this proposed closure. Maintaining maternity services at ABMC is not only vital for our residents but also for the region at large, ensuring that families have timely, local access to high-quality care when it is needed most.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board carefully reconsider Ascension's request to close the maternity unit at Alexian Brothers Medical Center.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter and for your ongoing commitment to protecting the health and welfare of Illinois residents.

Sincerely,

Jeff Pruy
Mayor
Village of Itasca, Illinois