

From: [Ed Krolicki](#)
To: [DPH.HFSRB](#)
Subject: [External] Deny Closure of Labor and Delivery at Alexian Brothers
Date: Monday, October 27, 2025 11:24:26 PM

To the Members of the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board,

I am writing as a concerned resident of Elk Grove Village to express my opposition to the proposed closure of Labor and Delivery at Alexian Brothers Hospital. This decision will have a serious impact not only on expectant moms and families in our community but also on the hospital's emergency and public safety systems that we all rely on.

Alexian Brothers is centrally located and easily accessible from multiple surrounding suburbs and the city of Chicago. Because of its prime location, it is often the closest hospital for many people experiencing a medical emergency, including women in labor or experiencing complications. If labor and delivery services are discontinued, these women will still present to Alexian because it is nearby, easy to access, and familiar. When that happens, the burden of care will fall on the emergency department staff, who will have to manage complex obstetric emergencies without the proper dedicated resources or specialized team.

I seriously worry this will pull critical emergency personnel away from other community needs. Additionally, once moms and newborns require transport to another hospital capable of providing the appropriate care, even more resources, particularly EMS, will be diverted. They are awesome and we are very fortunate to have them, but they can't do it all. These inter-hospital transfers will strain an already limited EMS system, taking ambulances and first responders out of service for extended periods.

Let's face it: no matter what arrangements Ascension establishes between its facilities and local EMS providers, emergency responders will always transport patients to the nearest hospital in critical situations. In most cases for our region, that will be Alexian Brothers. I see ambulances driving to Alexian off the highway and local roads from Schaumburg, Itasca, Wood Dale, Bensenville, Des Plaines, Arlington Heights, Roselle, Bartlett, Addison, Bloomingdale, Rolling Meadows, Glendale Heights, Palatine- all from recent memory. Depending on the patient's condition, subsequent transfers will likely go to Northwest Community Hospital because it is the nearest. This not only delays definitive care for patients but also increases risk and cost for both families and the healthcare system.

Ascension says they will take care of the cost, but will they? And who is really paying for that? At a community meeting with Ascension, even the Elk Grove Village mayor said his family received a bill for the ambulance service required for his grandson to be transferred to higher level of care. This was shared after a concerned mother told a similar story regarding her child with cancer needing an ambulance transfer and was left with the bill. According to the interim CEO Polly Davenport, that wasn't supposed to happen, but it did- more than once that was publicly shared that evening. How can we trust they are doing anything right by those they serve?

As a patient myself, I have already begun transitioning my care away from Alexian Brothers because of the declining quality of operations and what I view as poor business practices since Ascension assumed management. They seem to buy hospitals, dismantle them, and sell them off to health systems that continue to play the game even more poorly. This was done in

Michigan, Wisconsin, and as of this year in Illinois with 8 hospitals sold to Prime Health that received major backlash due to not upholding their end of the deal. Whistleblowers prompted a really interesting response from senators Dick Durbin and Tammy Duckworth.

This latest decision reinforces my loss of confidence. My recent emergency room visit left me in shock at how negative the entire experience was from the extremely long wait time to inexperienced staff that lacked compassion. I already feel terrible and frankly scared for the pregnant patients that will show up in pain or fear. The community deserves a healthcare partner that prioritizes access, safety, and quality—not one that reduces essential services for financial or administrative convenience and leaves patients needing care in the dust or feeling like they weren't cared for properly.

Ascension's leadership needs to reconsider this closure and to engage with local residents, medical staff, and public health officials before making any final decisions. Keeping labor and delivery services at Alexian Brothers is not just about maintaining a department—it's about preserving community trust, ensuring patient safety, and upholding the hospital's long-standing commitment to care for ALL.

It is heartbreaking to see a hospital system with no lasting ties to our community undo in just a few short years what took over 60 years of devotion, sacrifice, and care to build. How can anyone allow such a vital piece of our community's heart to be dismantled so quickly when it could easily serve us for another 60 years? This hospital was built to last, to heal, and to serve for generations to come. It deserves the chance to continue doing exactly that.

Thank you for your time and for considering the perspective of the community that's being served.

Ed Krolicki