

From: [Kelly Lakas](#)
To: [Constantino, Mike](#); [DPH.HFSRB](#)
Subject: [External] In Opposition to the Closure of the Labor and Delivery Department at Ascension Alexian Brothers Medical Center
Date: Tuesday, October 28, 2025 1:28:00 PM

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

I am writing as a resident of Schaumburg, Illinois, to strongly oppose Ascension's proposed closure of the Labor and Delivery Department at Alexian Brothers Medical Center in Elk Grove Village.

This decision will have a devastating impact on our region. Alexian Brothers has long served as a critical access point for expectant mothers across Elk Grove, Schaumburg, Des Plaines, and neighboring communities. Its closure will force women—especially those with limited financial means or urgent medical needs—to travel significantly farther for care. Every additional minute in transit during labor or a pregnancy emergency increases the risk of complications, suffering, and even loss of life for both mothers and infants.

Ascension's justification for this closure appears to be purely financial, not based on community need. The organization holds an \$18 billion investment portfolio and just this year placed an interim CEO for Alexian with a reported salary of \$2 million per year plus a \$50,000 bonus—at the same time it is dismantling essential services that protect mothers and babies. Furthermore, Ascension has closed labor and delivery departments at a rate three times faster than the national average, suggesting a troubling pattern of prioritizing profit over public health.

The Labor and Delivery nurses have provided evidence to the public and the Ascension leadership that the proposed idea to have St. Alexius be a "center of excellent" is destined to fail - as that Labor and Delivery ward has been put on "bypass" several times in the last year, meaning it cannot take in more patients. The leadership of Ascension is refusing to listen to the very people responsible for ensuring the well-being of patients, and also refuses to share any plans with their employees—much less the public—on how they plan to overcome the lack of capacity at St. Alexius.

With the ongoing reduction in Medicaid coverage and uncertainty around Affordable Care Act subsidies, this closure will disproportionately endanger low-income women and families. Tens of thousands in our region depend on accessible, high-quality maternal care, which Alexian Brothers has provided for generations.

I urge the Review Board to reject Ascension's request and require the organization to maintain labor and delivery services at Alexian Brothers Medical Center. The safety of our mothers, infants, and families must take precedence over corporate financial interests.

Sincerely,

Kelly Lakas

Schaumburg, IL