

To:

Illinois Department of Public Health
State Board of Health
525 West Jefferson Street
Springfield, IL 62761

Subject: Opposition to the Closure of Obstetric Services at Ascension Alexian Brothers Medical Center, Elk Grove Village, Illinois

Dear Members of the Illinois State Board of Health,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed closure of obstetric (OB) services at Ascension Alexian Brothers Medical Center in Elk Grove Village, IL. As a concerned labor and delivery nurse for almost 30 years at Alexian Brothers Medical center and community member -born at the hospital and life long patient, I believe this decision would have serious and lasting consequences for maternal and infant health in our region.

Access to safe, local obstetric care is a fundamental part of a healthy community. The closure of Alexian Brothers Medical Center's OB department would force expectant mothers to travel farther distances—sometimes more than an hour—for labor and delivery. This not only increases the risk of emergency deliveries en route but also creates unnecessary barriers to prenatal and postpartum care. Underserved communities will be disproportionately affected, worsening existing health disparities. Saint Alexius Medical Center is not equipped to care for all the patients that might be diverted to this hospital. Scheduled patients for delivery will be delayed and postponed. Patients could deliver in triage rooms when census is high and rooms are not available.

Illinois has made significant progress in reducing maternal and infant mortality rates through improved access, education, and continuity of care. Closing obstetric services undermines those efforts and contradicts the state's commitment to equitable healthcare for all Illinois families.

I urge the Illinois State Board of Health to review and intervene in this matter. Please work with Alexian Brothers Medical Center and regional partners to identify sustainable solutions that preserve obstetric services—whether through funding assistance, recruitment support, or collaborative care models. Protecting maternal and newborn health must remain a top priority across our state.

Thank you for your time and for your continued dedication to protecting public health in Illinois.

Sincerely,

Elaine Pieropan BS RNC-OB, C-EFM