

From: Sandy Breymeyer
To: DPH.HFSRB
Cc: Constantino, Mike
Subject: [External] E-008-25 Opposition Letter
Date: Wednesday, October 29, 2025 5:37:32 PM

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Sandy Breymeyer <sandyann43@aol.com>
Date: October 28, 2025 at 2:33:59 PM CDT
To: DPH.HFSRB@illinois.gov
Subject: E-008-25 Opposition Letter

To the decision makers at the Health Facilities and Services Review Board,

I am writing as a concerned resident of Elk Grove Village and as a stakeholder in the health and well-being of our community, to express my strong opposition to the proposed discontinuation of labor and delivery services at Ascension Alexian Brothers Medical Center (AABMC). This decision, if implemented, would not only reduce access to essential obstetric care in our region but also adversely impact maternal and neonatal outcomes, disproportionately affecting some of our most vulnerable populations.

1. Community access and safety

The announcement by the hospital that it intends to discontinue inpatient obstetric services at AABMC and consolidate those services at Ascension Saint Alexius Women & Children's Hospital in Hoffman Estates is deeply concerning. The distance and additional travel time present real risks in labor and delivery emergencies, especially for women in active labor, women with complications, or those with limited transportation options.

While AABMC has stated that emergency deliveries will continue under the requirements of EMTALA, the closure of a dedicated labor and delivery unit diminishes the timely access to full obstetric, neonatal, and support services on-site. This change places added burden on expectant mothers and their families, and on emergency staff who may be ill-equipped to handle specialized obstetric and neonatal crises.

2. Impact on maternal and neonatal health disparities

It is well documented that maternal morbidity and mortality remain disproportionately higher among Black and Hispanic women. Closing a local labor and delivery unit in a suburban community with diverse populations that continues to grow risks exacerbating these disparities by reducing convenient access to care and increasing barriers to timely intervention. A former nurse at AABMC raised just this concern:

"What are all of those women going to do when they present to Alexian Brothers in labor with a complication?" [NBC Chicago+1](#)

3. Community trust and hospital mission

When AABMC and the larger Ascension Illinois health system highlight values of serving "all persons, with special attention to those most vulnerable," the removal of a nearby labor and delivery service runs counter to that promise.

The decision has triggered substantial staff and community pushback—including a public hearing, rallies and comments to the state review board. Such erosion of trust may impair future collaborative efforts between the hospital and the surrounding community. Over 1,500 signatures were collected through a community member's petition via Change.org. This must be considered as major collective opposition! https://www.change.org/p/keep-elm-grove-s-maternity-ward-open-for-families?utm_source=share_petition&utm_medium=mobileNativeShare&utm_campaign=share_petition&recruited_by_id=5bc20120-3cbb-11e5-9806-97d06ba922be&recruiter=357111524

4. Consideration of alternatives

I respectfully urge you and the hospital leadership to reconsider the proposed closure or at least provide a viable plan to mitigate the risks. Some alternatives may include:

- Maintaining the obstetric/labor & delivery unit at AABMC and exploring cost-saving efficiencies elsewhere.
- Enhancing the collaboration between AABMC and the Hoffman Estates facility—but keeping a functional birthing center locally with a focus on an OB ED and low-moderate risk births to take burden off other nearby hospitals.
- Ensuring that transportation, emergency transfer protocols, staffing, and neonatal backup are clearly and publicly defined before any services are redirected.
- Engaging more efficiently with community stakeholders, maternal health advocates, and local public officials to assess the full impact and ensure that community needs are prioritized.

5. Formal request for reconsideration

Given the magnitude of this change and its potential impact on our community's health, I respectfully request that Ascension Illinois and AABMC:

- Present a detailed, publicly available transition plan addressing how all existing patients, staff, and community

members will be supported.

- Reopen the dialogue with the local community, including additional town-halls or forums.
- Submit a fully documented impact assessment on access, outcomes, and equity for maternal/neonatal care as required by the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board (HFSRB).
- Consider delaying final implementation until these concerns are resolved and alternative capacities are clearly proven.

In closing, I believe that the closure of the labor and delivery unit at AABMC would represent a significant loss to our community's healthcare infrastructure. While I appreciate that hospitals must evaluate resource allocation and operational sustainability, the impact on families, expectant mothers, and infants in Elk Grove Village and surrounding suburbs deserves full consideration and thoughtful mitigation. From my understanding, the only reason there has been this much "transparency" from the hospital is because they needed to respond to the information leaked to the community by concerned staff.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and for your commitment to the well-being of our community. I look forward to your findings and to any opportunities for community input going forward.

Sincerely,

Sandy Breymeyer