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To: [Constantino, Mike](#); [DPH.HFSRB](#)
Subject: [External] E-008-25 Alexian Brothers Medical Center
Date: Tuesday, October 28, 2025 11:46:59 PM

To whom it may concern:

I'm sending this email to voice my strong opinion against the obstetrics unit at Alexian Brothers Medical Center. In 2012, there were 3,059 hospitals with a labor and delivery department. Between 2012 and 2021, 469 labor and delivery departments closed in the United States with this trend other alarming statistics have also surfaced impacting the well-being of our reproductive age community. As a nurse who has worked on understaffed units and also in communities where healthcare services have been reduced or shuttered all together it is imperative to put people's health outcomes over the profits of companies, particularly those that call themselves a not for profit entity. Below are data outlining the impacts of reduced access to quality obstetric and gynecological care>

- The US has the highest rate of death among pregnant women and infants among comparably wealthy countries.
 - The maternal mortality rate is more than ten times the average among comparable wealthy nations, such as Australia and Japan, and infant mortality is almost double.
 - For the first time in two decades, infant mortality has risen, largely due to pregnancy-related complications.
 - **Experts attribute this increase to limited access to specialists who specialize in complicated pregnancies.**
 - A recent report by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) found that in 2021, maternal mortality in the United States increased by almost 40 percent, to 33 deaths per 100,000 live births — further widening long standing racial disparities.
- Black women are more than twice as likely to die during childbirth and are nearly three times more likely to die in childbirth than white women.
- As health outcomes for patients delivering babies and infants have plummeted, a recent report by March of Dimes found 36 percent of U.S. counties now lack obstetrics services at hospitals or birth centers.
- Numerous studies have found highly consolidated health care markets lead to an increase in prices, and may even result in worse patient care outcomes.
- The elimination of obstetric services, the branch of medicine that provides care during pregnancy and childbirth, has emerged as a major casualty of hospitals in highly concentrated markets that want to cut costs.

What can we do to reduce these trends?

1. The Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board must DENY Alexian Brothers request for exemption for a Certificate of Need, and application for exemption for the discontinuation of the 28-bed obstetric category of service at [Alexian Brothers Medical Center, 800 Biesterfield Road, Elk Grove Village, Illinois \(#E-008-25\)](#).
2. Ascension must fulfill its mission and take the following steps to become an industry leader in combating the meteoric rise in obstetric health care deserts and lowering the pregnancy-

related mortality rate:

1. Listen to nurses, safely staffing every unit to ensure the best care for patients;
2. Maintain obstetric services at Alexian Brothers Medical Center
3. Commit to reopening closed labor and delivery wards; and
4. Provide obstetrics services at all new hospitals Ascension opens or acquires.