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Subject: [External] opposition to closure of OB department
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I just read a letter from Seth Lewis in support of the closure of the Obstetrics unit at Alexian Brothers Medical Center. Clearly someone has reached out to him asking him to send a letter. I know that our administrators Polly Davenport and Dr Bordo are doing what they need to do so that they get this approved and get their bonus for completing this, so it would be naive to think that they have not contacted him and asked him to support the proposed closure. It is also clear that he has no idea about the true facts of what is happening and he is giving false information. He doesn't know facts and is only repeating information that has been given to him by people who are not reliable, factual, truthful or trustworthy. Seth discusses how wonderful it is that nearly 90% of employees on our unit have accepted positions at St Alexius. This is far from the truth. IF this is approved, they will only get 2 L&D nurses on nights because all the other full and part time staff have quit. They now have other jobs because Polly refused to hire anyone else. Staff was unwilling to work for a company with a temporary fill in CEO who doesn't value respect or transparency, does not value staff and does not acknowledge the mission of Alexian Brothers. As time goes on, more staff will quit for the some of the same reasons as the night shift quit. Many day nurses are looking for other employment, but Polly and Dr Bordo boast that 89% of staff are "on board" or have accepted positions, which is NOT TRUE. They have lied about a retention increase in hourly wages and refuse to address this even though HR was directly questioned. St Alexius will not be able to staff their unit for the influx of patients that they will acquire from Alexian. The on call requirements for staff is not sustainable for staff. When more staff quits or they don't have as many employees as they think they will get from Alexian, there will be more problems. Seth also states that Polly and Dr Bordo have been transparent and open about this closure, but again, that statement is not true. The only reason they told staff about the closure is because there was a leak about it and staff were questioning them more and more. They were not transparent or truthful for even a month before finally telling us. Then Polly stated "I own that. I should have been more forthcoming". Just because she said she owns it does not excuse the fact that she knew she lied to us. This was very calculated. Seth is not a medical professional and has no idea what the implications are if this is approved. The people who will be affected by this are the employees and the patients. The administrators are only financially driven despite the yearly profits from the hospital. Polly has stated that employees who question her on the merger/closure are disrespectful but doesn't recognize the disrespect shown to us by the continual lies over the last couple years. She even asked staff what we will be discussing during the meeting before it started. Staff declined to answer her. When Ascension sold hospitals to Prime Healthcare, again there were many lies told by Polly. The conditions were terrible, a whistle blower reported the lies and Dick Durbin and Tammy Duckworth wrote to Prime asking for answers. This proposed closure will be no different so how could you expect anything to be different with what they want to do now. Lies have already been told and Polly has shown us how employees do not matter. Financial gain is all she and Dr Bordo are focused on. Dr

Bordo is very out of touch with what is happening at Alexian Brothers for the short time he has been at Alexian. He has discouraged 3 OB doctors groups from going to St Alexius because St Alexius cannot accommodate the number of patients that would go there. Only one group of doctors which is owned by Ascension is welcomed to go to St Alexius. His disrespect towards doctors who have been there for over 20 years is shameful. Dr Bordo came from another hospital boasting how fast he can close an OB unit and during his time at Alexian, he has shown no respect from physicians or staff. The only positive part of his arrival at Alexian will be his exit. The mere fact that 3 groups of doctors "cannot" go to St Alexius should be proof enough that Alexian does enough deliveries to remain open. There is no "competing" for care between Alexian and St Alexius as Polly has stated since the groups of doctors remain separate at each hospital unless one hospital is too busy to accommodate inductions or cesarean sections. There are only a few doctors who can go to both locations and that is an advantage for doctors and patients to have 2 options of hospitals.

The fact remains that there is not room for Alexian staff, doctors or patients at St Alexius despite the explanations that the administrators give to the state to explain how this merger/closure will "work". It very simply does not and will not work. Their building isn't large enough and no construction has happened to ensure that anything will work there. If they really thought about this closure, they would have prepared for it but they have not prepared, ER staff is not trained, ER doctors are upset. We have an ER department that already is overloaded with patients. They cannot take OB patients in addition to what they have. Transfers will not always work despite what Dr Bordo states because as stated before, he is very out of touch with the reality of what staff is going through. Transfers take time and that is dependent on if the patient that presents to the ER is even stable enough to transfer, so staff absolutely will be overloaded with patients who are not their specialty focus. Explanations that are given by Polly and Dr Bordo are unreasonable, not truthful and THAT is a fact. So I am asking the state to reject this proposal to discontinue care for women in our community and the surrounding communities.