

From: [Danielle Hildreth](#)
To: [Constantino, Mike](#)
Subject: [External] E-008-25 Alexian Brothers Medical Center
Date: Wednesday, October 29, 2025 12:23:04 PM

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Danielle Hildreth and I am writing this email in response to the potential closure of the 28-bed obstetric unit at Alexian Brothers Medical Center in Elk Grove Village. As a registered nurse, currently working in an obstetric unit in the city of Chicago, I am well aware of how important access to healthcare is for pregnant people. The elimination of obstetric services is incredibly dangerous for people during pregnancy and in the weeks following delivery. Without access to care, patient outcomes will deteriorate and the maternal mortality rate and infant mortality rate in the United States will worsen.

As obstetric units are shut down, patients are forced to change providers, often in the middle of their pregnancy, and the continuity of care is lost. This is especially prominent in neighborhoods where the majority of the patient population is Black or Latine, which further contributes to the racial disparities in healthcare, particularly in the rate of mortality and morbidity during and after childbirth. Not only does closing these units create a lack of services in a neighborhood, but it pushes more patients into another hospital, which might already be overcrowded and under-staffed. This will lead to longer waiting times, delayed services, and overworked staff members.

Ascension is the second largest and wealthiest nonprofit and Catholic health system in the country. Closing obstetric units throughout the country at Ascension hospitals is unnecessary and dangerous to the community members who rely on their services. Therefore, 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 in Elk Grove Village.

Ascension must become a leader in combating the rise in obstetric health care deserts and lower the pregnancy mortality rate by safely staffing every unit, maintaining obstetric services at the Alexian Brothers Medical Center, committing to reopening closed labor and delivery wards, and providing obstetric services at all new hospitals that Ascension opens or acquires.

Thank you,
Danielle Hildreth