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From: Ally and Kevin <allywkevinb@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 7, 2026 11:25 AM
To: House Health and Human Services Committee
Subject: Navy Spouse at the Birthing Center

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Hello,

I am writing to express my concern over the potential closing of the Birthing Center at Newport Hospital as an active duty Navy spouse. This greatly affects the healthcare of our Navy community in Newport. The healthcare of our service members and our families is coveted as it is unpredictable and receiving good healthcare is few and far between. Keeping the Birthing Center open is important to the health and well-being of our Navy, current active duty members and spouses, and families.

My husband and I moved here from California in November, 17 weeks pregnant. Moving pregnant added another layer of stress due to not knowing the New England area at all, let alone a reliable hospital system, doctors, or staff. I relied heavily on fellow Navy Spouses via shared social media posts on the quality of care at the hospital. The reputation of the Birthing Center is all I had to depend on in order to receive care after moving here.

I am due with our first baby in just 2.5 weeks and have been extremely cared for by the Birthing Center staff. From birthing and breastfeeding classes to nonstress tests in utero for our baby, to upcoming birth, the staff has been excellent. Without access here in Newport, our experience would be hindered.

Closing the center would be very concerning for the continuity of care of our Navy families as we make moves across the country and have many aspects of our healthcare that is not controllable, manageable, or predictable. The Newport Navy community has received wonderful care through the Birthing Center and closing it is a great concern for current and future Naval community patients.

Personally my family moved to Newport pregnant on active duty orders, and after years of IVF, we have received excellent care at the Birthing Center and I am relieved to have a reliable place to receive care for our upcoming birth. We have received glowing recommendations of the level care and attention the Birthing Center prioritizes and it would be detrimental to our Navy families who are ordered to move to the area in the Birthing Center were to close.

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Thank you for your time!

Ally Flood