

Steven Sepe

From: Nicole Phillips <nicole.phillips1231@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 8, 2026 8:15 PM
To: House Health and Human Services Committee
Subject: Newport Hospital Birthing Center

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To Whom it May Concern,

I implore you to keep the Newport Hospital Birthing Center open. I had my son at that birthing center in 2024 and I can say without a doubt, it was the most positive, warm, comforting experience that a first birth could possibly offer. The nurses, doctors and staff that work there are kind, helpful, and beyond supportive.

The wonderful experience I had aside, I simply cannot imagine having to leave the island to deliver my next baby (due in November). The island, and the surrounding towns (Bristol, Tiverton, Little Compton, Jamestown etc.) would be left in a dire situation if the birthing center was to close. Having to travel across two bridges to make it safely to the hospital is not an option for many people, not to mention the summer, holiday and weekend traffic that those bridges host. So many women and babies will be put in extremely dangerous situations, life threatening, if forced to travel to Providence for maternal care. This is also not even including the strain it would put on emergency services.

I understand there is a bottom line here, but you have to consider the hundreds of lives you'd be putting in danger by closing this center. Find the funding, it will save lives.

Best,
Nicole Phillips
Newport, RI