

April 8, 2026

To whom it may concern,

We are writing to express our strong support for keeping the birthing center at Newport Hospital open and operational. For many expectant mothers in our community, Newport Hospital is the nearest and most accessible facility for delivering their babies. This center is a critical component of our community's healthcare system, and its potential closure poses serious risks to maternal and infant health in our region. Having a birthing center on the island is especially vital for families who lack the means or ability to travel long distances for care.

Aside from the practical need for a birthing center in this part of the state, the care provided at the Noreen Stonor Drexel Birthing Center at Newport Hospital is irreplaceable. Our baby boy was born at Newport Hospital one year ago and the care we received was remarkable. The nurses, doctors, and midwives at Newport Hospital cultivated an environment that made us feel supported, respected, and well cared for. It is difficult to put into words the amount of gratitude we feel towards the nurses and midwives that cared for us. They were just exceptional. There is no other place we would have rather welcomed our baby into the world than with the team of nurses and midwives at the Noreen Stonor Drexel Birthing Center.

We urge you to take every action possible to ensure the continued operation of the birthing center at Newport Hospital. The closure of this birthing center would be a huge loss to the community for so many reasons, both tangible and intangible.

Thank you for your time, attention, and service to our community.

Respectfully,

Jennifer and Brian Amaral
Residents of Newport, RI

Writing in support of H8203, H7272, H7626 and S2380