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January 11, 2014

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Dear Mr. Constantino:

HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

The Obstetrics Department at Jersey Community Hospital is an asset to Jersey County as well Calhoun and Greene counties and the surrounding areas. Its skilled and caring staff has provided care and assistance to new parents for many years. Closing this department would be a great loss to these communities.

I have had children, grandchildren and great grandchildren born at this hospital as well as other hospitals in the area. My family and friends have found the staff in the OB Department at Jerseyville to be skilled, professional, and caring to their patients. The staff spend time teaching and talking to their patients and make them, feel comfortable, cared for, and important. The minimal interaction I have witnessed and been told about at other OB departments does not provide the warmth and caring that the patients at Jerseyville receive. It seems that in larger hospitals it is much more impersonal. Also, when you have had a baby at Jerseyville, you know when you see your nurse out in the community, they will remember you, greet you, and ask about your family. This personal attention seems to be missing at larger hospitals.

I also know that many of their patients do not have the resources to travel to Alton, St. Louis, or Jacksonville to have their babies. Many have mentioned to me that if it wasn't for Jerseyville, they would have had their babies in the car or had serious complications when trying to get to other hospitals.

Jersey Community Hospital's redecoration and improvement to its OB department have made it, in my opinion, the nicest and most comfortable OB departments in this area.

Please consider not allowing this important part of our communities to be lost.

Sincerely,

Parola Spencer
Jerseyville, IL