

The Emergency Providers at Copley Hospital want to express our support of the Birthing Center. We feel that it is important for rural communities to offer these services. We recognize that the United States ranks poorly among other high-income countries in regards to maternal/infant health outcomes and that lack of access to care is a large factor in poor outcomes.

As Emergency Providers, we are committed to providing care to any person who walks through our doors. We know that should our Birthing Center close, the Emergency Department will inevitably care for laboring patients. As Emergency Providers, we have limited training in obstetrical deliveries. Emergency Physicians are required to perform 10 deliveries in our training and many of us have not delivered a baby since. We worry about adverse outcomes and mortality, should it fall to us to care for these patients in the Emergency Department with our limited skill set.

While it is our hope that options will be explored to keep Birthing Services open at Copley Hospital, we know the viability of the hospital as a whole is of the utmost importance and many factors need to be considered. We recognize that the Copley Hospital Board has a difficult decision in regards to the Birthing Center. We are very grateful to the time the board members dedicate to our community by serving on the board. We encourage the administration and the board to include representation from the Emergency Department throughout this process.

Sincerely,

Nathan Hemmer M.D., Amy Larow PA, Megan Lea M.D., Robert Marsan M.D., Chelsea Neri N.P., Neil Nigro M.D., Chuck Osler N.P., Anne O'Conner M.D., Adam Putnam M.D., Miguel Reyes-Zaragoza M.D., Kelvey Wilson M.D.