

I'm writing to express the necessity of keeping Brattleboro Memorial Hospital's Birthing Center open. In addition to providing a safe, nurturing environment for the birth of my two children, the team at BMH is the reason my mother and I are alive today. Had she needed to travel to a farther hospital while in labor, we both would have died from placental abruption.

Birth, by nature, is a dangerous undertaking. By forcing Windham and Windsor County mothers to travel over 30 minutes to visit a birthing center, there is an additional level of risk being introduced to an already hazardous situation. If the birthing center closes, we will be forced to make the choice between laboring in unsafe conditions or forgoing having children. Those births are essential for helping shift the demographics in a county that is already the oldest in the state, in the oldest state in the nation. Our home is at a crisis point, and you have the power to help.

Please, do what you can to preserve our birthing center. As the sixth largest town in Vermont, it's an investment in our future generations and will help save our community. A state that will not prioritize the health of its women and their growing families is not a place where I plan to continue raising my son, daughter, and hopeful future children.

We thank you for your current and continued effort on this important issue.

Sincerely,
Kate Annis & Ben Crosby