

TOWN OF SHARON

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**Statement of Support to Maintain All Vital Services at Sharon Hospital**

The Sharon Board of Selectmen stand in support of maintaining Sharon Hospital as a full-service hospital for the following reasons:

1. Sharon Hospital is a cornerstone of our community, and the Labor and Delivery service is the entry point for families in its catchment area. It is well established that community hospitals without maternity units shrivel. Further, long and uncertain travel for women in labor is neither safe nor sustainable. Clearly, not only young families but everyone involved in local businesses and schools will suffer if the hospital shuts its maternity service, and since the community looks forward to an increase of young families over time, it is essential that Sharon Hospital preserves its Labor and Delivery service.
2. Maintaining the hospital's Intensive Care Unit (ICU) is critical for the health and well-being of our citizens. Relatedly, we must retain ICU expertise to treat inevitable cases of complicated medical and surgical patients. In addition, by maintaining ICU patient care at our hospital, close to patients' support systems, the added stress of travel in uncertain weather will be avoided. Finally, it is likely that primary care doctors will think twice about affiliation with a hospital lacking an ICU unit equipped and staffed with the requisite expertise. Our area could face a further decrease in primary care physicians, which in turn could lead to an exit of citizens of all ages, including retirees, the very demographic that features in the plan to reconfigure Sharon Hospital's services.
3. The maintenance of after-hour surgery services is vital to our citizens because accidents and illness do not always happen between 8 am and 5 pm.

It is time for Connecticut to support healthcare in the rural communities. We ask our State Legislators, our Governor and Congressional members to do everything within their power to create the changes needed to ensure the well-being of the rural communities of Connecticut. Everyone deserves equal access to healthcare no matter where they live.

Signed:

  
First Selectman, Brent M. Colley

  
Dale C. Jones, Selectman

  
Casey T. Flanagan, Selectman

This Statement of Support was signed by all the members of the Sharon Board of Selectmen on June 14, 2022