

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Iowa Leaders, Health Care Advocates Warn of Rural Hospital Crisis Following MercyOne Clinton Labor & Delivery Closure Announcement

Over [800 Hospitals](#) and Care Facilities Nationwide Are Under Attack Due to Trump and Republicans' War on Health Care

Today, Senator Mike Zimmer joined Protect Our Care Iowa at the Sawmill museum for a community listening session to discuss the closure of the Labor and Delivery Unit on May 26, 2026, after Donald Trump and Republicans' cut over \$1 trillion from Medicaid and the ACA through their Big, Ugly Bill. Medicaid is an essential pillar of the country's health care system that not only insures over [600,000 Iowans](#), but also keeps hospitals and health care clinics, particularly in rural areas, open and able to provide essential critical services. Without Medicaid funding, hospitals, emergency departments and maternity wards risk closure, creating health care deserts that eliminate entire communities' access to lifesaving care.

Every service cut and hospital closure is a direct result of Trump and Republicans prioritizing tax breaks for billionaires and big corporations over Americans' health and safety. Hospital closures impact every Iowan's access to health care and overwhelm emergency rooms, cause more avoidable deaths, devastate local economies and drive up costs for everyone. Speakers discussed the need to fully fund services like the Labor and Delivery Unit at MercyOne and other hospitals across Iowa, and hold Republicans accountable for causing widespread harm by gutting Medicaid.

"Iowans deserve access to reliable, affordable, local healthcare. All five of our children were born in Clinton, so this closure is personal for my family. Iowans in more than half the counties in the state are without access to obstetric care close to home, and now our friends and neighbors here in Clinton County will see labor and delivery options reduced. This is another sad chapter in the decline of services in Iowa." **State Senator Mike Zimmer**

"Closing the Labor and Delivery Unit at our hospital feels like a slap in the face to families—and to anyone hoping to start one. It's not just about the moment of birth. It means longer drives for every prenatal checkup and every follow-up visit, more time off work, more childcare costs for kids at home, just to get basic care. And at a time when our state is already making it harder to access reproductive and miscarriage care, now it's even harder to safely deliver a child. Families in our community deserve better than this." **Emily Gipe, Clinton Parent**

Learn more about how hospitals are under attack due to Medicaid cuts [here](#).

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