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ILLINOIS STATE SENATE  
**A.J. WILHELMI**  
STATE SENATOR • 43RD DISTRICT

June 24, 2011

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JUN 27 2011

HEALTH FACILITIES &  
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

Mr. Dale Galassie  
Chairman  
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board  
525 W. Jefferson, Second Floor  
Springfield, IL 62761

RE: U.S. Renal Care Bolingbrook Dialysis Certificate of Need Application Project No. 11-025

Dear Chairman Galassie:

This letter is written in support of the U.S. Renal Care Bolingbrook Dialysis Certificate of Need Application. The Bolingbrook community is in great need of additional dialysis resources to provide care to the growing population of residents who require such services. Both the high incidence of end stage renal disease and the growing Hispanic population in Bolingbrook make it essential that the Board approve this project to provide much needed dialysis resources for the Bolingbrook community.

The Bolingbrook area has seen a dramatic increase in its Hispanic population as demonstrated by 2010 census data. In the last ten years, the Bolingbrook Hispanic community has grown nearly 145%, from 7,371 in 2000 to 17,957 in 2010. Similarly, this growth also represents a higher proportion of Bolingbrook residents from 13.1% in 2000 to 24.5% in 2010. This proportion of Hispanic residents exceeds similar demographic populations for both the state of Illinois and Will County, at 15.8% and 15.6% respectively.

In addition to the high population growth in the Bolingbrook community, Hispanic populations also suffer from an incidence rate of end stage renal disease which is one and a half times greater than for Non-Hispanic Whites. This rate of incidence is more severe in certain populations with some studies documenting incidence rates for diabetic end stage renal disease as high as six times for Mexican Americans as compared to their non-Hispanic white counterparts. It is clear that without this project, the high incidence of end stage renal disease coupled with the explosive growth of Hispanic residents will result in an extreme shortfall in dialysis resources in the Bolingbrook community. The state of Illinois cannot afford to neglect the growing health care needs of its residents.

I believe that this project is essential to meet the needs of the Bolingbrook community and I urge the Board to approve this project.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "A.J. Wilhelmi".

A.J. Wilhelmi  
State Senator - 43<sup>rd</sup> District