

12-026

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

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JUN 01 2012

HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

Dear Mr. Galassie:

I am writing to you today to voice the need - and my personal support - for a new U.S. Renal Care dialysis facility in Villa Park. While I wish I could voice my support in person, I had a three hour dialysis session on the day of the public hearing.

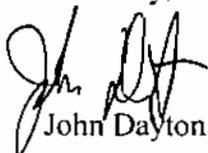
My name is John Dayton. I have been on dialysis for 16 years, and I have been fortunate enough to have been in the care of Dr. Kittaka for 15 of those years. I can say without a doubt that I would not be here today if it were not for the exceptional care that Dr. Kittaka has provided to me.

While I have what I believe is the best nephrologist I could ask for, my quality of life is being diminished since my dialysis center moved from Villa Park. Simply put, the new facility has been a nightmare. The location is not convenient and the parking situation is terrible. Beyond the inconvenience, I've just had an overall bad experience. On one occasion, my dialysis needle came out of my skin and resulted in a pool of blood on the floor. I had to call out for help, and by the time an employee arrived, I had nearly fainted.

I am not the only patient who is discontent with the new facility. But unfortunately, we don't have another option. The facility we used to visit was more convenient to access and would give us a choice when it comes to our care. For many, the proximity of the Villa Park facility would also mean valuable time added to their day that would otherwise be spent traveling unnecessary distances.

Thank you for taking the time to review my letter of support and I respectfully urge you to please approve U.S. Renal Care's application for a dialysis facility in Villa Park. Please give me and so many others a choice when it comes to our dialysis treatment.

Sincerely,


John Dayton

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Re: U.S. Renal Care Villa Park Facility

Dear Chairman Galassie,

Thanking you for taking the time to review my letter of support for a new dialysis facility in Villa Park. My name is Sherry Kroll and I have been in Dr. Cohan's care since 2000 when I had first learned that my kidney had failed.

In many ways, I feel as though I am one of the lucky ones. In 2001, my oldest daughter donated her kidney to me and I have been in good health ever since. To receive this gift was like getting my life back again. Even though I did at-home dialysis before the transplant, I regularly went to the Villa Park facility for care and education such as seeing a dietician. While my experiences there were always professional and pleasant, seeing the people on dialysis who did not have the good fortune to be receiving a kidney made me vow that I would take the best care I could of the special gift I received from my daughter.

I also feel incredibly lucky that I had Dr. Cohan as my nephrologist for the year or so that I was on dialysis. With Dr. Cohan, getting a transplant was always the end goal he had in mind for me. While I understand that it isn't always an option for patients, Dr. Cohan gave me the support, encouragement, and thorough explanation I needed to manage my dialysis care at home. He was respectful, upfront, and honest and always let me know exactly what to expect. All patients should be so lucky to have such an incredible doctor supporting you every step of the way.

As anyone who has been on dialysis can tell you, it is an incredibly draining experience, and having the freedom to manage my dialysis care at home was a godsend. But I know that many people do not have that option. Instead, they have to travel from their homes, often to inconvenient locations only to have unpleasant experiences.

Needing dialysis is not a choice, it's a necessity. I am writing to ask you to give these patients the one choice they should have, a choice about where to get their treatment. It is a necessity in improving the quality of life for those who did not choose to have it diminished in the first place. With Dr. Cohan at the helm, you can trust he will do what's best for every patient—just like he did for me. Approving U.S. Renal Care and Dr. Cohan's Villa Park facility will give area patients much-needed choice and access to quality and convenient care.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Sherry Kroll