



ALEXIAN
BROTHERS
 Medical Center

April 12, 2012

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

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HEALTH FACILITIES &
 SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

Dear Chairman Galassie:

I am President and CEO of Alexian Brothers Medical Center, and I want to lend our hospital's support for U.S. Renal Care's Certificate of Need application for a dialysis center in Villa Park. This proposed facility will fill a void recently created when a Villa Park dialysis center relocated outside the community.

As you may know, our hospital is located in Elk Grove Village, not far north of Villa Park. Over time, we have seen a growing number of patients with kidney failure and other conditions requiring dialysis. It is critical that the region contrive to develop the necessary services to care for these patients. Moreover, it's critical that patients have the access to dialysis services they need close to home and at times that are convenient for them.

This is particularly important to hospitals like ours. A lack of available outpatient dialysis care can force patients to have longer inpatient stays as they wait for available care. Longer inpatient stays add hassle for patients and raise costs for healthcare in general. To prevent this from happening, we must ensure that the appropriate number of dialysis stations are available in the surrounding communities, including Villa Park.

Now is the right time to bring this new facility on-line – especially given that the general population is aging and the area's demographics are trending toward an increased Hispanic and African American population. These populations are more likely to develop diseases such as hypertension and diabetes that contribute to kidney failure. These factors require that additional dialysis services are made available to meet the dialysis needs of these populations.

In closing, the U.S. Renal Care Villa Park Dialysis facility will provide area patients with much-needed access to dialysis stations and as such, I ask the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board to approve this application. Thank you.

Regards,

John Werrbach
 President/CEO