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HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

September 6, 2012

Courtney Avery
Illinois Health Facilities & Services Review Board
525 W. Jefferson St., 2nd Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

Ms. Avery,

I write to you today to voice my strong support for Dr. Nagarkatte and U.S. Renal Care in their efforts to open a kidney dialysis facility in Lemont, Illinois.

I have been a patient of Dr. Nagarkatte since March of 2005. Back then, she told me I was headed for dialysis soon; my kidneys were functioning at 7%. But with her help, I managed to lose a significant amount of weight and delay my date with dialysis. Since then, my kidneys rose to 17% function and now they are at 22%.

I find that her approach is somewhat unique, and I really appreciate it. I cannot say enough about her ability to care for patients. She is truly one-of-a-kind. I've been in the care of other nephrologists in the past, and they "jump the gun," so to speak, on putting me on dialysis. She continues to insist that I am strong enough to come off of it.

With her guidance and her care, I've been able to come back from dialysis procedures and remove myself from the typical or numerical approach to going on dialysis. She looks out for my best interests and considers all of the factors, not just the numbers. It is such a self-motivator to continue along the road to good health and in keeping a positive mental attitude. She really makes you want to keep working at it.

While I have managed to avoid dialysis so far, I know that I may eventually need it. I am 70 years old, and there are a lot of obstacles to overcome as you age. My kidney function may not continue to improve, regardless of my efforts. I am positive, but I am also realistic. And if I do end up on dialysis, I want to be able to go to a facility close to home.

I am in a wheelchair, and getting around in general is a major hassle. Kidney disease does not usually exist on its own. It is often a result of diabetes, heart disease or hypertension. So I would imagine that a lot of other kidney patients have a difficult time getting around, too. For that reason, the kidney patients of Lemont should have a facility where they can receive treatment close to home.

I'm lucky enough to have my wife as my caretaker. We are both retired, so she can take me to medical appointments and other errands. If I need dialysis she will drive me there, too. In that case, I would definitely want a closer facility so that her whole day is not lost to sitting in a waiting room while I dialyze. And I know that some other patients have to drive themselves. That is just another reason we should open a facility in Lemont. Dialysis can be exhausting, and driving a long distance home after a session is not something we should ask people to do, especially in any sort of inclement weather.

At this point, I hope to never need a dialysis facility at all. But it would give me peace of mind to know that if I ever do, there is one close by with doctors I know and trust. So I urge you to approve this dialysis center not only for me, but for my wife and for the other kidney patients and caretakers of Lemont.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Charles Albright". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Charles Albright