



VILLAGE OF CHICAGO RIDGE

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October 9, 2013

Kathryn J. Olson, Chair
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson Street, 2nd Floor
Springfield, Illinois 62761

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HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

RE: Chicago Ridge Dialysis (Proj. No. 13-050)

Dear Chairwoman Olson:

I am the Village President of the Village of Chicago Ridge and I am pleased to support DaVita's proposal to establish Chicago Ridge Dialysis, which will improve access to essential dialysis treatment for residents who live in my community.

The proposed facility is located on the immediate border of the Village of Chicago Ridge and Worth. DaVita's proposal will not only directly benefit residents of my community who suffer from end stage renal disease (ESRD), but also those who could benefit from early detection of kidney disease, intervention, and education. In fact, DaVita's Kidney Smart program helps to improve intervention and education for pre-ESRD patients. The overwhelming majority of chronic kidney disease (CKD) Medicare patients (approximately 65-75%) have never been evaluated by a nephrologist. Timely CKD care is imperative for patient morbidity and mortality. Adverse outcomes of CKD can often be prevented or delayed through early detection and treatment.

Further, residents in and around my community, many of whom are African American or Hispanic, exhibit a higher prevalence of obesity, which is a driver of diabetes and hypertension. These individuals are at an increased risk of ESRD compared to the general population due to the higher prevalence of these conditions in the Hispanic and African American communities. In fact, the ESRD incident rate among the Hispanic population is 1.5 times greater than the non-Hispanic population, and the ESRD incident rate among African Americans is 3.6 times greater than the non-Hispanic white population.

This demand is supported by current ESRD rates in the community. In fact, nearly 30% of all Illinois ESRD patients reside within 30 minutes of the proposed facility. While DaVita's CKD programs will hopefully slow ESRD incidence rates for many of these residents, it simply cannot prevent every individual from progressing to ESRD. As such, I support the proposed Chicago Ridge Dialysis to expand access to ESRD care in my community and urge the Board to approve this project.

Sincerely,

Charles Tokar, J.D., MPA
Village President