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

HEALTH FAC
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

Re: Proj. No. 15-028 – Fresenius Medical Care Schaumburg

Dear Chair Olson:

I am a nephrologist and the current medical director for Schaumburg Renal Center, Arlington Heights Renal Center, and Buffalo Grove Renal Center. Importantly, I am familiar with the Schaumburg service area. I am writing to oppose Fresenius Medical Care's ("Fresenius") application to establish a 12-station dialysis facility in Schaumburg. There is currently no need for additional stations in Schaumburg.

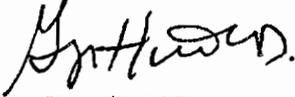
Fresenius claims a new dialysis facility is warranted due to high utilization of its existing facilities in the area. However, Fresenius does not consider utilization of existing non-Fresenius facilities. Based upon Fresenius' own data, there are 24 existing or approved dialysis facilities within 30 minutes of the proposed Fresenius Medical Care Schaumburg. Nineteen of these facilities, including the three facilities for which I serve as medical director, are operating below the State's utilization standard. In fact, Schaumburg Renal Center, Arlington Heights Renal Center, and Buffalo Grove Renal Center are operating at 60% utilization, 58% utilization, and 67% utilization respectively. Members of the referring physician group have privileges at these facilities, and collectively, they have sufficient capacity to accommodate the 74 patients projected to initiate dialysis at the proposed Fresenius Medical Care Schaumburg.

Further, as noted in Fresenius' application, 5 of the 8 dialysis facilities within 15 minutes of the proposed Fresenius facility are operating below the State's utilization standard, including Schaumburg Renal Center, US Renal Streamwood, and ARA South Barrington. Each of these facilities is operating at or below 60% utilization. The referring physician group has historically referred to these three facilities, and they can collectively accommodate 120 additional patients. Importantly, patients can receive dialysis treatment within their preferred health care market without detriment to the physician-patient relationship. This should ease the anxiety and stress for new patients initiating dialysis.

Thus, the Board should deny Fresenius' proposal to establish a new 12-station facility in Schaumburg. The ESRD needs of the Schaumburg community, as well as the surrounding

geographical service area, will continue to be met for the foreseeable future by existing facilities in the immediate area. There is currently no need for additional in-center hemodialysis stations in Schaumburg.

Sincerely,



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