The City of Granite City

Ed Hagnauer, Mayor

February 21, 2017

Via Federal Express

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

Re: Foxpoint Dialysis (Proj. No. 16-037)

Dear Ms. Olson:

I am the Mayor of Granite City, and I support DaVita's proposal to establish Foxpoint Dialysis, a 12 station dialysis station in Granite City. Granite City is a community of approximately 30,000 residents located northeast of St. Louis, just across the Mississippi River from St. Louis. Since our founding, Granite City has been rooted in the steel industry, which created a strong middle class in our community. In recent years, we have experienced significant financial hardship, due in large part to the temporary closure of Granite City Steel Works. The idling of the steel mill not only affected laid off steel workers, but all of the other businesses tied to the steel industry. In fact, the loss of one steel worker's job affects seven other jobs in Granite City. While U.S. Steel is in process of re-opening a portion of the plant, only a fraction of the employees laid off last year will be re-commissioned.

It seems that the recent economic hardship has adversely affected the health of our community. Kidney disease is considered a "silent" disease as individuals are generally asymptomatic until the later stages when kidney failure is imminent. Accordingly, individuals affected by hard times who lack access to primary care are more vulnerable to being diagnosed with late stage chronic kidney disease. In hearing about the increased incidence of chronic kidney disease amongst our residents, I understand this is the case in Granite City as significant we have seen significant increases in patients requiring dialysis. Based on this trend more services are now needed in Granite City.

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Based on the need for a second dialysis facility in Granite City, I support the proposed Foxpoint Dialysis facility to expand access for our community. I respectfully request the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board approve DaVita's application for Foxpoint Dialysis.

Sincerely,

Ed Hagnauer

Ed Hagnauer
Mayor
Granite City