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HAND DELIVERED

May 16, 2018

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**HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD**

Ms. Courtney Avery, Administrator
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson Street, Second Floor
Springfield, Illinois 62761

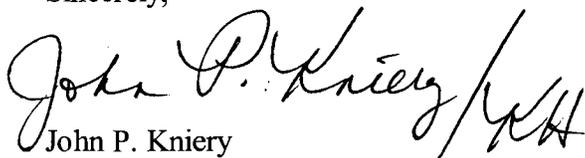
Re: Project No. 17-043, Romeoville Dialysis

Dear Ms. Avery:

Please accept the enclosed support letters from Senator Richard J. Durbin, Alden Estates of Shorewood and Nia Lang for the above referenced project.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,


John P. Kniery
Health Care Consultant

ENCLOSURES

JPK/kah

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RICHARD J. DURBIN

ILLINOIS

DEMOCRATIC WHIP

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

COMMITTEE ON RULES
AND ADMINISTRATION

United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510-1304

May 15, 2018

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

Dear Chair Olson,

I am writing to support DaVita's efforts to open Romeoville Dialysis in northern Will County.

I applaud DaVita's efforts to bring the first dialysis clinic to Romeoville, a community of 40,000 residents that is densely populated and continues to grow. This area of Will County has an acute need for dialysis services; however, there is no dialysis clinic in Romeoville and area residents must currently travel elsewhere for their care. This is challenging for patients and their caregivers, who lose additional time three days per week simply commuting to dialysis. It is also unsustainable in light of the growing number of area residents who have kidney disease. Like many villages in Illinois, Romeoville has an aging population. From 2013 to 2018 alone, the number of seniors in the Romeoville Dialysis service area is projected to grow by over one-third. As individuals grow older, they are more likely to experience organ failure. They are also more likely to have chronic diseases such as diabetes or hypertension, which are the leading causes of kidney disease. As a result, our seniors suffer from high rates of chronic kidney disease and kidney failure. Romeoville also has a growing minority population who unfortunately also experience higher rates of chronic kidney disease than the general population. It is imperative that these individuals have convenient access to dialysis services in their community.

The DaVita Romeoville Dialysis clinic is necessary to help ensure area residents have the healthcare services they need to thrive. I fully support the proposed clinic and urge the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board to do the same. Please do not hesitate to contact my Springfield office should you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
U.S. Senator

RJD/dl



Alden Estates of Shorewood, Inc.

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

RE: DaVita Romeoville Dialysis, Romeoville, Project 17-043

Dear Chair Olson:

I am the administrator of Alden Estates of Shorewood, a health care and senior living provider that specializes in transitional care and post-acute services. On behalf of Alden and our residents, I write to express my support for DaVita's proposal to build Romeoville Dialysis clinic in neighboring Romeoville. Romeoville is a vibrant area that has grown in recent years, with the development of additional senior communities with a new senior assisted living development and a new independent living community. With this growth has come an influx of elderly residents to the community and an increasing reliance on area health providers.

At Alden Estates of Shorewood, we care for many elderly individuals suffering from the chronic diseases that often plague this population, such hypertension, diabetes and kidney disease. Many of our patients require dialysis and we provide transportation to their appointments three times per week. This requires careful coordination and is not an easy feat for our residents or care coordinators, because if residents are limited on the dialysis times they are assigned by local clinics, they may have to miss physical therapy or other aspects of their care plan that are necessary for recovery. Ideally our residents would receive dialysis during the second shift at area clinics, which is least disruptive to their rehabilitative care plans. However, we are having increasing difficulty scheduling our residents for those treatment times because the clinics near us in Naperville, Bolingbrook, and Joliet are heavily utilized. Due to limited availability, our drivers frequently make multiple trips to each dialysis clinic per day because our residents are unable to schedule overlapping appointment times, and it is also difficult to add new residents who need dialysis to area clinics.

We are pleased to serve our residents and we do our best to coordinate each person's dialysis care with their other health needs. Unfortunately, this high utilization of area clinics is creating unnecessary hardship for our residents and other area patients with end-stage renal failure. They would greatly benefit from improved access to dialysis services in the Romeoville, a community that has no stations and is totally underserved.

For these reasons, we hope to welcome DaVita, a dialysis provider with a national reputation for high quality patient care, to DuPage County. We know our residents will benefit from having an additional dialysis provider in the area, in addition to having better appointment availability. We also look forward to the care coordination that DaVita Romeoville Dialysis will allow between DaVita and Northeast Nephrology Consultants, Inc. to further improve dialysis patient care and outcomes in our community. Alden Estates of Shorewood fully supports the proposed clinic and we respectfully ask that you approve the project in June.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Castleman
Administrator

Alden Estates of Shorewood

710 West Black Road Shorewood, Illinois 60404 Phone: (815) 230-8700 Fax (815) 254-8697

www.TheAldenNetwork.com

May 13, 2018

Mrs. Kathy Olson
Health Facilities & Services Review Board
525 W. Jefferson, 2nd Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

For DaVita Romeoville Dialysis Center, Project 17-043

Dear Mrs. Olson:

I support the proposed nearby Romeoville Dialysis clinic. My family is personally affected by kidney disease and I support this clinic to give all families in the area better access to treatment in their community.

Dialysis is very hard on the patients and their loved ones. By improving access to clinics, and helping clinics to have better availability, you are helping patients and families like mine to have one less thing to stress about and to arrange dialysis around their life. My mom misses a day of work every week for my grandma's dialysis and that is really hard financially. Thank goodness for the Family Medical Leave Act but still she doesn't get paid when she misses work for dialysis. You are also helping patients like my grandma attend family get-togethers and other important life events because they have the ability to schedule dialysis at a time that works best for them.

Unfortunately, it does not seem that kidney disease is a passing problem in Illinois. Many causes - including obesity, diabetes and hypertension - are continuing to rise, and the fact remains that as people age, their aging organs sometimes fail to keep up with them. Please approve this dialysis clinic to help support current and future dialysis patients (and those who love them).

Sincerely,



Nia Lang
7325 Northgate Way
Downers Grove, Illinois