



HSHS Medical Group

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JAN 29 2018

**HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD**

January 26, 2018

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

Re: Northgrove Dialysis (Proj. No. 17-049)

Dear Chair Olson:

I am the Chief Executive Officer of HSHS Medical Group and I write to provide additional support for our Highland dialysis patients to supplement my letter to you dated September 13, 2017.

As I mentioned in my September letter, Dr. Bassim Assioun joined HSHS Medical Group in July 2015 to care for our rapidly growing CKD/ESRD patient population. To reiterate, HSHS Medical Group is currently treating 205 patients who are suffering from Stage 3, 4 or 5 CKD and reside within 30 minutes of the proposed Northgrove Dialysis. Of those 205 patients, 148 patients reside within the zip code of the proposed Northgrove Dialysis (62249). We anticipate at least 65 of these patients will progress to dialysis within 12 to 24 months of completion of Northgrove Dialysis. We are working on pulling data to show utilization patterns from 2015 to present and will provide that in a supplemental letter.

It remains critically important that Dr. Assioun's patients have local access to dialysis treatment. It is dangerous to ask these infirm patients to commute over two hours per week to receive life preserving dialysis care. Northgrove Dialysis will fill this access void and help ensure Highland residents have appropriate opportunities for care and well-being.

We hope this information will assist you with your review of the proposed Northgrove Dialysis facility and respectfully request that you approve the application.

Sincerely,

Melinda Clark
CEO, HSHS Medical Group



January 24, 2018

Via Federal Express

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

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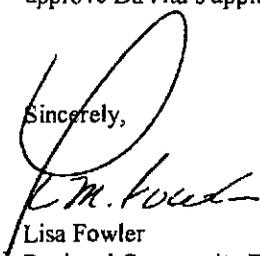
Dear Ms. Olson:

I am the Regional Community President of First Mid-Illinois Bank & Trust. Our bank has a branch located in Highland, Illinois, and I support DaVita's proposal to establish Northgrove Dialysis, a 12 station dialysis facility in our town. Highland is a community of approximately 16,000 residents located 35 miles northeast of St. Louis. The town has entrepreneurial roots and is home to many trade industry businesses not typically seen in communities of our size. However, like many small towns in the state, Highland's population is aging. Many of our bank clients are facing new challenges associated with decreased mobility, poor vision and driving abilities, and financial concerns due to their fixed incomes and increasing health care needs.

Many of those same clients also have kidney disease – a “silent” disease that is often only discovered in its later stages when kidney failure is imminent and dialysis is often required. Unfortunately for these residents, we do not have a dialysis facility in Highland. They must travel nearly 20 miles or more – three times per week on narrow two-lane country roads – to receive this life saving care. This is onerous for all Highland residents who need dialysis, but especially for families with limited means and elderly and ill individuals. The driving distance creates tremendous anxiety among such residents, many of whom have lived their entire lives in Highland, because they worry about missing their dialysis sessions due to poor weather or unreliable transportation, but they do not want to move elsewhere and separate from their families and friends.

Our bank is committed to the success of Highland, Illinois. We see firsthand how improving access to health care resources, especially those not currently available, is crucial to the health and future of our community. I support the proposed facility and respectfully request the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board approve DaVita's application for Northgrove Dialysis.

Sincerely,



Lisa Fowler

Regional Community Bank President
First Mid-Illinois Bank & Trust

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