

Dr. Brandon Eldridge, Pharm.D.
4164 Yann Road
Marine, Illinois 62061
(p) 618.887.4203
(e) beldridge@LongTermCareRx.com

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 Ms. Olson:

As a stakeholder in the Highland area and a licensed healthcare professional (Pharmacist - Registered in both Illinois and Missouri), I want to see my community continue to grow in both the quality of health care services available as well as the quantity of advanced services provided. I want to see Highland enhance its already flourishing business sector with every health care service available, sooner rather than later, before the impending aging population "boom" expected over the next five to ten years.

While Highland may be considered a "small" town from the outside looking in, it is of vital importance for those living in the east side of Madison County looking out. In the eyes of many, Highland is the lifeblood of all commerce activities, and it serves as the nearest access to emergency and non-emergency healthcare, restaurants, and of course, Wal-Mart (the gold standard measurement for distance to civilization).

We have a hospital in Highland, and one area of treatment that is becoming increasingly important for some of our citizens - particularly our seniors and chronically ill residents - is kidney care (renal) services. We have a provider that is willing to bring these services to our community with the establishment of a small dialysis clinic: Northgrove Dialysis.

As a Founding Member and Past Department Commander of the Sons of the American Legion (Missouri Detachment, Missouri Boys State Squadron #999), I have spent a lot of time with members of the Greatest Generation. I am 33 years old, and generally, I am in good health. I am being honest when I say that addition of a Dialysis unit isn't for me - nor will it benefit me any time soon. But, the "baby boomers," and those of that generation and a bit younger, they need it, and they need it now. We're lucky to be close to some of the most advanced healthcare in the entire world just across the Mississippi River. Dialysis has been the standard of care and available for more the sixty years. I believe that we owe it to our country's greatest generation (as well as any others that may need it), to make the distance to their closest Dialysis clinic, and not their closest Wal-Mart, the gold standard measurement for distance to civilization. While someday I might need it, and I'll be glad it's there. For today, I know someone needs it, and I'll be proud that I spoke up to help get it there.

I want to be completely clear and extend my unwavering support for DaVita in its efforts to bring this service to Highland, and I ask that the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board approve the proposed clinic.

Sincerely,

Brandon Eldridge, Pharm.D.

Dr. Brandon G. Eldridge, PharmD