LakeCounty

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May 16, 2018

The Honorable Kathryn Olson
Chairwoman
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 W. Jefferson Street, 2nd Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

Sent via email to Mike.Constantino@Illinois.gov and U.S. Postal Service

Re: Waukegan Park Dialysis Center Project #17-060

Dear Chair Olson,

I write in support of Fresenius Kidney Care's Waukegan Park dialysis center (project #17-060), which is needed to enhance accessible dialysis services for patients in Waukegan and the North Chicago-area.

Much of the available treatment capacity is located in the far western portions of the northern Lake/eastern McHenry HSA, putting it out of reach for patients in the Waukegan-North Chicago area who face these challenges:

- Lack of access to vehicles/mobility, making them dependent on public transit and paratransit
- Lack access to a grocery store ("food deserts")
- Suffer from chronic illnesses like hypertension and diabetes
- Less likely to receive regular wellness and health exams

The Waukegan Park dialysis center would provide life extending care to people who are living near the epicenter of the most startling health disparity we face in Lake County. People living in North Chicago have an average life expectancy that is 10 years less than someone living in a neighboring community.

Combating chronic illness and comorbidities that cut a lifespan by ten years requires us to take an "all in, all of the above" approach to increase access to care for those in need. That includes approving the certificate of need for the Waukegan Park dialysis center.

I urge an aye vote and thank you for your consideration.

Best regards,

Aaron Lawlor
Lake County Board Chairman

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