

KIDNEY CARE CENTER

Your Partners In Health

March 27, 2018

Kathryn Olson
Chairman
Illinois Health Facilities & Services Review Board
525 W. Jefferson Street, 2nd Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

Re: Project #17-065, Fresenius Kidney Care New Lenox

Dear Ms. Olson:

I am a nephrologist practicing in the Joliet and New Lenox communities. Joliet, especially eastern Joliet which borders New Lenox experiences high rates of end stage renal disease requiring dialysis treatment for survival. This is evident in the high utilization at DaVita New Lenox, almost at capacity and Fresenius Joliet, which is almost full. With historic growth of ESRD in this immediate area there will soon be no access to dialysis services for this market, some of which is medically underserved.

The high utilization creates a complete lack of treatment shift choice for new patients. Generally, the two day-time shifts fill up and new patients must dialyze on the evening shift. At this time of day transportation options are severely limited and patients must rely on family members to get to and from treatment. For patients who drive themselves, it is not optimal for them to travel after dark after treatment, given that most dialysis patients are elderly and experience many comorbid conditions.

The DaVita New Lenox facility can only admit a few more patients before it is full and the next closest facility, Fresenius Joliet will not be able to accommodate the overflow. My patients will be forced to travel long distances out of their community for treatment. I do not want to put this additional hardship on them considering what they already struggle with.

I therefore, respectfully, request that you consider the demands put on dialysis patients and grant additional access to treatment in this area. Thank you for your time and attention to this vital matter.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Bond, D.O.