

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:

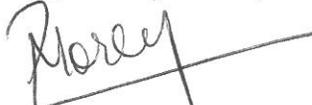
Being a nephrologist serving the Joliet and New Lenox communities for the past 3 years, I have seen an increased growth of the population who require dialysis services. This area, especially Eastern Joliet which borders New Lenox, experiences high rates of end stage renal disease requiring dialysis treatment for survival. 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. Time after time, I am finding it difficult to place my patients who live here at a suitable location, with a suitable treatment schedule.

Currently due to limited options for dialysis centers in the community, DaVita New Lenox and Fresenius Joliet are at high capacity which leads to lack of treatment shift options for new patients. Typically, the two day-time shifts are not available and new patients must dialyze on the evening shift. During this time of day transportation options are severely limited and patients must rely on friends and family members to get to and from treatment. For patients who drive themselves, driving home after dark is not optimal for them, given that most dialysis patients are elderly and suffer from additional medical conditions.

Another issue is many of my patients are economically disadvantaged and find it difficult to travel outside of their health care service area, so I do not wish to require them to do so. Patients who have difficulty getting to dialysis are prone to miss treatment. The lack of continuity of care as well as additional missed treatments results in high hospitalization rates and lower quality outcomes.

In general, the demands put on dialysis patients are excessive. Lack of access to medical treatment in the community is an additional burden that is being placed on patients in the Joliet and New Lenox communities. I respectfully urge you to approve the Fresenius Kidney Care New Lenox facility so that there will be access to dialysis services for my patients from New Lenox and Joliet for years to come.

Respectfully Yours,



Rishikesh Morey, M.D.