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ILLINOIS STATE SENATE



TERRY LINK
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STATE SENATOR - 30TH DISTRICT

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June 26, 2018

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

Re: Support for project 17-066, DaVita North Dunes Dialysis, Waukegan

Dear Chair Olson:

As the state senator for Illinois' 30th District, I am keenly aware of the health care challenges of my constituents. It is because of those challenges that I fully support the DaVita North Dunes Dialysis center proposal for Waukegan.

Waukegan urgently needs additional dialysis services. There are two existing clinics in Waukegan, one of which is operated by DaVita, but both are nearing capacity, leaving residents with few options for life-saving dialysis in northeastern Lake County. Since the dialysis procedure requires four hours of treatment, three times per week, receiving services close to home is of vital importance.

The residents of northeastern Lake County have an elevated risk of chronic kidney disease. This is due to three factors. First, the service area has a large minority population. African American and Hispanic residents are statistically more vulnerable to kidney disease. Second, the service population has a higher percentage of older individuals who tend to be more vulnerable. Third, the overall population of the service area is comprised of low income persons. Complicating the shortage of dialysis services, northeastern Lake County is also federally-designated as medically underserved and has a shortage of health professionals.

Moreover, it is my understanding that DaVita provides outstanding dialysis services. For the past four years the federal government has ranked DaVita first for Medicare patients, and among the largest dialysis providers, DaVita ranked highest in performance.

An additional dialysis center will significantly reduce the lack of dialysis services. For that reason, I support the DaVita North Dunes Dialysis for Waukegan.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Terry Link", written over a horizontal line.

State Senator Terry Link
30th District