

RICHARD J. DURBIN

ILLINOIS

ASSISTANT DEMOCRATIC LEADER

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510-1304

February 8, 2019

RECEIVED

FEB 11 2019

HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

Ms. Courtney Avery, Administrator
Illinois Health Facilities and
Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson Street, 2nd Floor
Springfield, Illinois 62761

18-048

Dear Ms. Avery,

I am writing in support of DaVita's efforts to open Sauganash Dialysis in northern Chicago. The clinic will help serve residents of the Sauganash and Albany Park neighborhoods.

This community has documented access issues, high rates of poverty, and is home to a large minority population that experiences greater incidence of kidney disease. The area to be served by this clinic has a strong Hispanic (28%) and Asian (11%) presence, and with incidence of End-Stage Renal Disease being 1.5 times greater among Hispanics than the general public, this clinic would provide services for a community in need. Furthermore, this population is federally recognized as a Health Resources and Services Administration Medically Underserved Population, and that disparity needs to be addressed.

Clinics in the nearby vicinity are actively operating near target utilization, and that demand for dialysis only continues to rise. Given these trends and area demographics, this is an increasingly vulnerable community. It is of the utmost importance that the appropriate treatment resources are available to serve Albany Park and Sauganash.

I applaud DaVita's effort and innovative spirit to increase access to dialysis services for residents throughout the state of Illinois. They are recognized by CMS for excellent care and patient outcomes, and I urge the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board to approve this clinic. Please do not hesitate to contact my Springfield office at (217) 492-4062 should you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator

RJD/cm