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FEB 13 2019

HEALTH FACILITIES &  
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

Renee Madrid  
2150 N. Oakley  
Chicago, IL 60647

February 10, 2019

Courtney Avery  
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board  
525 West Jefferson St., 2nd Floor  
Springfield, IL 62761

Re: Approval of Sauganash Dialysis (Project 18-048)

Dear Mrs. Avery,

I write to support the proposed Project 18-048 dialysis clinic which will serve Sauganash and Albany Park residents in Chicago. I have lived in Chicago for more than thirty years. Unfortunately, I know first-hand how I and others in the Hispanic community are at higher risk of certain diseases, like kidney disease. For many of us, it is difficult to gain access to the health care we need and chronic diseases go undetected until it is too late.

Our neighborhood hospital, Swedish Covenant Hospital, offers the following diabetes care services which help for those people who have the means and time to participate:

- Educational Topics for Diabetics
- Disease process and progression
- Proper nutritional habits
- The importance of physical activity
- Medication use and safety (oral, insulin and insulin delivery systems)
- Blood glucose monitoring
- How to prevent, detect and treat acute and chronic complications
- Goal setting and problem solving
- Psychosocial adjustment
- Preconception care, management during pregnancy and gestational diabetes

My life is very busy. I balance two jobs and my family responsibilities. Many in my community are in a similar situation. And when you become sick, you don't get to ignore those obligations and the extra costs of illness like diabetes are unmanageable. You still have to go to work so you can support your family.

I ask that you to please put yourselves in the shoes of Chicago residents who are low-income with difficulty making ends meet and also need dialysis treatments to survive and try to understand the challenges these patients face.

Having this additional dialysis clinic to serve Albany Park is crucial for the people who live there. Please don't make those residents choose between getting treatment and providing for their families. Please approve Sauganash Dialysis.

Sincerely,



Rene Madrid

18-048

February 11, 2019

Courtney Avery  
Health Facilities Planning Board  
525 West Jefferson Street  
Springfield, Illinois 62761

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HEALTH FACILITIES &  
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

**Re: DaVita Sauganash Dialysis (18-48)**

Mrs. Avery,

I write you and the Board to ask you to please approve Sauganash Dialysis for the residents of northwest Chicago. A majority of foreign-born residents in the area are from Latin America, mostly from Mexico (especially from the state of Michoacán), Guatemala, and Ecuador. However, substantial numbers are from the Philippines, India, Korea, Cambodia, Somalia, the former Yugoslavia (Serbia, Croatia, Bosnia), Romania, Pakistan and the Middle East (especially Iraq, Iran, and Lebanon). Over 40 different languages are spoken in area public schools.

As for health, kidney disease and diabetes are problems in this community. And both run in my family. Based on that I am only too aware of the incredible toll these diseases have on a person and their loved ones. Managing kidney disease is an uphill battle every single day. You cannot eat many foods – especially if you have both diabetes and kidney disease- and you have to limit how much water you drink, and every other day you must go to dialysis for hours to have the machine do what your kidneys used to do.

There are over 132,000 people in Sauganash and Albany Park and both have high rates of kidney disease. The areas are underserved and need better access to dialysis care. We're all struggling in the same fight for our lives, but we have to jump through so many hoops just to get treatment. It just isn't right.

It frustrates me that patients who already have the odds stacked against them have to argue about getting more access to dialysis clinics in Sauganash and Albany Park when we have a provider that wants to help the situation.

We should be trying to help people get the treatment they need. Opening Sauganash Dialysis would do just that. Please approve this clinic.

Sincerely,



Irma Lizcano  
2150 N. Oakley  
Chicago, IL 60647