



**ShermanHealth**  
Every life, every moment, every day

1425 North Randall Road  
Egln, Illinois 60123  
phone 847-742-9800  
shermanhealth.com

November 3, 2010

**RECEIVED**

VIA Facsimile (217)785-4111

NOV 04 2010

Mr. Dale Galassie  
Chairman  
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board  
525 W. Jefferson St., 2nd Floor  
Springfield, IL 62761

HEALTH FACILITIES &  
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

**Re: Letter of Support for Cobblestone Dialysis, Project 10-058**

Dear Chairman Galassie:

I am writing to you on behalf of Sherman Hospital (the "Hospital") in support of the proposed relocation of the former Sherman dialysis program which is now operated by Total Renal Care under the name Cobblestone Dialysis. As you know, the Hospital sold this facility to DaVita, Inc. this July. The Hospital continues to own the real estate which is the site of the former old hospital building which was closed and relocated to 1425 Randall Road nearly a year ago. While there is a need for continued dialysis operations in the vicinity of the old Hospital and the facility is serving a significant number of patients, the Hospital is unable to continue to lease the space in the old building.

In a letter including in the project's CON application dated July 12, 2010, the Hospital's Director of Property and Project Management, Keith Golden, articulated some of the real estate issues surrounding the current location and why the Hospital cannot have a long term lease with Cobblestone Dialysis at the old Hospital. As that letter notes, the dialysis facility is located in one of the older parts of the physical plant of the former hospital. The older portion of the building is scheduled for demolition so that a redevelopment of the campus can proceed. In the meantime, the operating expenses relating to utilities are costly based on the configuration of the building. Notwithstanding the use of only a very small portion of the building, the costs cannot be meaningfully reduced.

DaVita is a leading provider of dialysis services in the United States which provides innovative services on a cost-effective basis for its base of chronically-ill patients. One reason the Hospital chose DaVita is for its superior programs. DaVita has taken on many initiatives to improve the lives of patients suffering from chronic kidney disease (CKD) and end-stage renal disease. One example is its EMPOWER program. DaVita launched the EMPOWER program workshops in 2008. These workshops are free community-based educational seminars that encourage patients with CKD to take control of their health and make informed decisions about their dialysis care. Led by a team of DaVita nurses, renal dieticians, and social workers, EMPOWER uses a multidisciplinary approach to educate patients with CKD about their disease, ways to delay progression, and different treatment options. Workshops also focus on preparing patients for life on dialysis or with a kidney transplant. DaVita recognizes the unique and vital role that it plays

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in enhancing care for renal patients throughout the country and the Hospital is pleased that its patient base now has the benefit of this provider in the community.

Thank you for your consideration.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eric Krueger", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Eric Krueger  
Chief Financial Officer



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# Fax

<b>To:</b> Mr. Dale Galassie	<b>From:</b> Eric Krueger
<b>Fax:</b> 217-785-4111	<b>Pages:</b> 3 (including cover page)
<b>Phone:</b>	<b>Date:</b> November 4, 2010
<b>Re:</b> Letter of Support	<b>CC:</b>

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*Please call (224) 783-8116 if you experience difficulty with this transmission.*