

302 N. Chicago Street
Joliet, Illinois 60432



(815) 774-7480
Fax (815) 740-4600

Lawrence M. Walsh
Will County Executive

Mr. Dale Galassie, Chairman
Illinois Health Facilities & Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson Street, 2nd floor
Springfield, IL 62761

RECEIVED

FEB 14 2011

**HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD**

Re: Project Reference #10-066

Dear Mr. Galassie
Members of the Illinois Health Facilities & Services Review Board:

My name is Larry Walsh and I am the County Executive in Will County. I am writing this letter on behalf of and in support of Fresenius Medical Center and the above referenced project. By this letter, I intend to voice my support in favor of a sixteen (16) station dialysis clinic to be located at 1721 East Jackson Street, Joliet, IL. I am also asking you and the Board of Review to grant the request for a Certificate of Need.

As you may be aware, Fresenius Medical Care has approximately 2,000 dialysis clinics in the United States, approximately 100 in the State of Illinois. Fresenius offers several different modalities of dialysis treatment including in-center hemodialysis, nocturnal dialysis, home dialysis, and peritoneal dialysis.

Fresenius treats any patient, regardless of ability to pay, at clinics that have been established throughout the State of Illinois in both affluent and economically challenged areas. In rural county Illinois, for example, Fresenius established a clinic in Bolingbrook approximately 10 years ago with fifteen (15) stations. The clinic has now been expanded to twenty-four (24) stations to accommodate the increasing number of patients who need dialysis. Fresenius also has facilities in Mokena, Lockport, and Plainfield.

The patient population on the East side of Joliet that will be directly affected by the proposed project includes 46.4 percent Hispanic and 30.5 percent African-American according to the 2000 Census. It is estimated these numbers have increased significantly since the 2000 Census. Further, Hispanics and African-Americans are twice as likely to experience hypertension and diabetes, two of the leading causes of kidney failure.

I appreciate the opportunity to share this information and to offer my support of the proposed facility to be located on the East side of Joliet. My hope is you and your board members will approve the Certificate of Need and allow this project to move forward. I wholeheartedly and without reservation place my support of this project. Please feel free to contact me at my office if you have any further questions.

Sincerely,

Lawrence M. Walsh
Lawrence M. Walsh
Will County Executive