

Constantino, Mike

From: Kara Friedman [KFriedman@Polsinelli.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 01, 2011 11:51 AM
To: Constantino, Mike; Roate, George
Subject: Project 10-88, Letter of Support from Chicago Alderman Maldonado
Attachments: KO Proj. No. 10-088 -Hispanic-American Endoscopy Center 3-1-2011.doc

Mike and George,

Attached is a letter of support for Hispanic American Endoscopy Center.

Thank you, Kara

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HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

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Roberto Maldonado
Alderman, 26th Ward

March 1, 2011

ELECTRONIC MAIL

Mr. Dale Galassie
Chair
Illinois Health Facilities
and Services Review
Board
525 West Jefferson Street,
2nd Floor
Springfield, Illinois 62761

Proj. No. 10-088 – Hispanic-American Endoscopy Center

Dear Mr. Galassie:

I am writing to express my support for Dr. Ramon Garcia and the proposed addition of urological surgical procedures at Hispanic-American Endoscopy Center. As the president of Garcia Medical Center and Hispanic-American Endoscopy Center, Dr. Garcia has been a leader in providing much needed health care services to the Hispanic community in Chicago. This proposed project will enhance the scope of services available to the Hispanic community. I fully support Dr. Garcia's proposal to add urological surgical procedures to Hispanic-American Endoscopy Center.

Members of the Latino community face cultural and linguistic barriers which often impede access to adequate health care services. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Minority Health, which is charged with eliminating health disparities, achieving equity, and improving and expanding the capacity for linguistic and cultural competence of health care professionals working with Limited English Proficient ("LEP") minority communities, recognizes that significant health disparities exist among LEP populations. Expanding the scope of services at Hispanic-American Endoscopy Center will improve accessibility and utilization of health care services for the Hispanic community of Chicago.

Based upon a 2008 report from the Pew Hispanic Center, approximately 23% of the population of Cook County is Hispanic. In the City of Chicago, that community is an even more significant minority. Hispanic generally have poorer health outcomes compared to the rest of the population, experiencing higher rates of illness and death from health conditions such as heart disease, stroke, cancer, diabetes, HIV/AIDS, asthma, hepatitis B, and overweight and obesity. While many of the conditions can be mitigated by routine screening and early detection,

Mr. Dale Galassie
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there are a limited number of good options, for the Spanish-speaking community. While some other Chicago providers do attempt to address the cultural and language barriers of the population at large, this provider is unlike others because it is wholly-managed by Latinos and does an excellent job meeting the health care needs of the large Latino minority residing in Chicago.

Dr. Garcia has been a leader in providing the Hispanic community in Chicago with quality medical services, in a culturally sensitive, bilingual environment. In 2009, the City Council of the City of Chicago recognized Dr. Garcia for his professional achievements and his service to the Hispanic community. A copy of the resolution is attached hereto. Adding urological surgical procedures at Hispanic-American Endoscopy Center will improve access to much needed health care services to the Hispanic community of Chicago.

I respectfully request the Health Facilities and Services Review Board to approve Project No. 10-088, the addition of urological surgical procedures at Hispanic-American Endoscopy Center.

Sincerely,



Roberto Maldonado
Alderman, 26th Ward

AMC:
Attachment