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Mercy Medical Center

March 8, 2011

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HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

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

Re: Project #10-086, Fresenius Medical Care East Aurora

Dear Mr. Galassie:

As President and CEO of Provena Mercy Medical Center in Aurora, I am writing to express support for the 12-station dialysis facility that Fresenius Medical Care is proposing to establish in East Aurora at 924 E. New York Street. For many years Fresenius Medical Care, has operated the Aurora Dialysis Center on the campus of the Hospital near to above capacity and this facility has met a crucial healthcare need for the people of Aurora.

From my perspective at Provena Mercy, I have witnessed the changing demographics of the patients served by the hospital as well as the community in general. The population near the proposed Fresenius site is made up of a growing number of Hispanic and African American residents, who are at a disproportionate risk for diabetes and high blood pressure, which are the leading causes of kidney failure. This accounts for the high incidence of kidney failure we are experiencing here in Aurora. Many of these patients are indigent and uninsured and could greatly benefit by being able to receive treatment near their homes. Many do not have adequate transportation to travel significant distances for healthcare.

I appreciate the opportunity to lend my support for this much needed service for the community served by the past hundred years by the Sisters of Mercy. I strongly support this project and urge you and the Board members to grant the Certificate of Need permit at the May 10th meeting.

Sincerely,



James D. Witt, RN
President & CEO