

11-003



Gary L. Barnett  
*President and  
Chief Executive Officer*

December 15, 2010

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

**RECEIVED**

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**HEALTH FACILITIES &  
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD**

Re: Letter of Support for DaVita Mattoon

Dear Chairman Galassie:

I am writing to you on behalf of Sarah Bush Lincoln Health Center ("Sarah Bush Lincoln") in support of the proposed relocation of the DaVita Mattoon dialysis center from its current location at 200 Richmond Avenue E. Mattoon, Illinois to 6051 Development Drive, Charleston, Illinois. Sarah Bush Lincoln is the only hospital in Coles County and within 45 minutes of the Mattoon/Charleston area generally. We are a 128-bed, not-for-profit, regional hospital centrally located in East Central Illinois' Coles County and provides a full range of acute care services with 28 physician specialties to residents of Coles County and the surrounding six counties. Accordingly, most residents of the surrounding area come to Mattoon to receive health care services, including dialysis. Sarah Bush Lincoln does not operate a dialysis program. In fact, DaVita Mattoon is the only dialysis facility located in the Charleston/Mattoon area. The next closest dialysis facility is located 35 minutes away in Effingham. A dialysis facility located in the Mattoon/Charleston area is imperative to ensure the residents of this area maintain access to life sustaining dialysis. Therefore, we fully support the relocation of the DaVita Mattoon dialysis center.

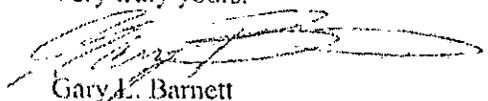
Specific to the current location of the dialysis facility, Sarah Bush Lincoln owns the medical office building at 200 Richmond Avenue East, Mattoon, IL 61938, where the facility currently operates. Sarah Bush Lincoln is unable to extend the lease with DaVita due to several operational and strategic issues. We regret that we cannot allow the dialysis facility to continue to operate where it is currently located but are glad to hear of DaVita's plans to relocate the facility and maintain the same capacity and scope of services at the planned location.

DaVita is a leading provider of dialysis services in the United States. It has taken on many initiatives to improve the lives of patients suffering from chronic kidney disease ("CKD") and ESRD. One example is its EMPOWER program. DaVita launched the EMPOWER program workshops in 2008. The workshops are free community-based educational seminars that encourage CKD patients to take control of their health and make informed decisions about their dialysis care. Led by a team of DaVita nurses, renal dietitians, 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 in enhancing care for renal patients throughout the country. Sarah Bush Lincoln is grateful that the residents in the Charleston/Mattoon area have the benefit of a provider like DaVita in the community. Accordingly, we fully support the proposed relocation of DaVita - Mattoon.

Thank you for your consideration.

Very truly yours,



Gary L. Barnett  
President and Chief Executive Officer  
Sarah Bush Lincoln Health Center

GLB:kgw

Cc: Dennis Pluard  
Vice President, Operations  
Sarah Bush Lincoln Health Center