

Constantino, Mike

From: Tawny Smith [tawnysmith@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Tuesday, May 15, 2012 11:59 AM
To: Constantino, Mike
Subject: Letter of Support from Rep. William Davis
Attachments: doc20120515115719.pdf

Importance: High

Good Afternoon,

I write on behalf of State Rep. William Davis to provide a letter of support for the Fresenius Medical Care Oak Forest facility. The letter is attached for your review.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Tawny R. Smith
District Administrator for
State Representative William Q. Davis
30th District of Illinois
1912 West 174th Street
East Hazel Crest, Illinois 60429
Phone: 708-799-7300
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WILLIAM Q. DAVIS
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
30TH DISTRICT

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May 11, 2012

Michael Constantino
Illinois Health Facilities & Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson Street
Springfield, Illinois 62761

Re: Fresenius Medical Care Oak Forest (No. 12-012)

Dear Mr. Constantino:

I write to offer my support for the Certificate of Need for Fresenius Medical Care's Oak Forest Dialysis Center. As you know, the closing of Oak Forest Hospital last year was a major setback to south suburban residents. Frankly, our area was in need of greater access to medical care – not less. Geography, ethnicity or income should not determine the quality or availability of care, but too often it seems as though that is the case.

I believe access to health care is a fundamental right, and increasing health care availability has been one of my top priorities since taking office. As Chairman of the Special Committee for Health and Healthcare Disparities, I see the inequalities in my district firsthand, and the toll they take on people. Many of my constituents have to travel for dialysis care, using public transportation or medical transportation services that operate during select hours of the day. That can be a tremendous hardship, especially for elderly dialysis patients, who need to receive treatment three times a week for three to four hours a session.

Opening a dialysis facility in the Village of Oak Forest would allow these residents to stay closer to home, have a better quality of life and spend more time with their families and loved ones. The outpatient facility that replaced Oak Forest Hospital does provide some primary care services, but we need more facilities like the Fresenius Dialysis Clinic to help provide equitable care to our medically underserved Southland residents. I understand that, once open, the center will not only serve Oak Forest residents, but those from nearby communities such as the Village of Posen and Robbins as well as the City of Markham.

Therefore, I respectfully request that the Illinois Health Facilities & Services Review Board give full and fair consideration to the needs of these residents when making your decision concerning this issue.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "William Q. Davis".

William Q. Davis
State Representative
30th District of Illinois