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St. Alexius Medical Center

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HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

May 10, 2012

Ms. Courtney Avery
Administrator
Illinois Health Facilities & Services Review Board
525 W. Jefferson Street, 2nd Floor
Springfield, IL 62716

Re: Project #12-015 Fresenius Medical Care Schaumburg

Dear Ms. Avery:

As President and Chief Executive Officer of St. Alexius Medical Center in Hoffman Estates, Illinois, I am writing to express my full support for the 12-station dialysis facility that Fresenius Medical Care proposes to establish in Schaumburg at 815 Wise Road. Fresenius Medical Care and Nephrology Associates of Northern Illinois have been serving residents in the Hospital's service area for many years at the Elk Grove Village and Hoffman Estates dialysis clinics. They have a longstanding commitment here in our community to high quality patient care.

Through their vast resources and expertise they provide optimum services through varied modalities. Fresenius Medical Care offers patients the choice of transplant consideration, home peritoneal dialysis, home hemodialysis, in-center hemodialysis, and in-center nocturnal dialysis, as well as acute dialysis services in hospitals across Illinois.

We at St. Alexius Medical Center have witnessed the rates of kidney failure rise as the population ages and as the demographic makeup of our communities becomes more and more diverse. Along with these changes, unfortunately, comes an increase in diabetes and high blood pressure leading to an overall increase in the incidence of kidney disease. With area clinics operating near capacity, we have experienced difficulty finding appropriate clinic and shift options for patients being discharged from the Hospital. These delays in disposition and discharge inevitably lead to increased length of stay, which, in turn, translate to significant costs sustained by the Hospital, the patient, and the overall health system in general.

Furthermore, we have been striving to minimize readmission rates and to improve care transitions for a myriad of health conditions, including congestive heart failure. With more scheduling options available to allow patients to receive therapeutic dialysis for a frequently encountered problem such as acute volume overload, our hope is that this may translate into preventing unnecessary trips to the Emergency Department and subsequent hospitalization for many of these patients.

1555 Barrington Road
Hoffman Estates, Illinois 60169
847.843.2000

Lastly, Fresenius Medical Care provides services for both acute and chronic dialysis needs at St. Alexius Medical Center, allowing for more continuity of care as the patient could then be assigned to receive ongoing treatment at the proposed Fresenius unit in Schaumburg upon their eventual discharge.

Without an end in sight to the health issues at hand, we fully expect this trend to continue. St. Alexius Medical Center wishes to ensure that dialysis services will remain available in the Schaumburg area and encourage the Board to approve the Certificate of Need application for the Fresenius Medical Care Schaumburg dialysis clinic. I appreciate the opportunity to lend my support for this much needed facility.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you need additional information or if I can be of assistance to you in any manner whatsoever. I am available 24 hours a day via the hospital switchboard. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Edward M. Goldberg
President and Chief Executive Officer