

GORDON J. KINZLER, M.D., S.C.
PRACTICE LIMITED TO UROLOGY AND RENAL TRANSPLANTATION

1200 SOUTH YORK ROAD
SUITE 4290
ELMHURST, ILLINOIS 60126

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HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD
TELEPHONE
(630) 758-8600
FAX
(630) 758-8603

May 10, 2012

Mr. Dale Galassie
Chairman
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 W. Jefferson, Second Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

12-026

Dear Chairman Galassie:

The purpose of this letter is to express my support for the proposed project submitted by U.S. Renal Care and Dr. Michael Cohan to open a dialysis facility in Villa Park. I have practiced urology and performed surgeries in this area for 18 years. Currently, I serve as Chairman of the Department of Surgery at Elmhurst Memorial Hospital. I believe that this application would provide critical access to life-saving services for residents both in Villa Park and the surrounding areas.

A patient's care and well-being relies on their ability to connect with the services and resources that keep them healthy. The closer they are to the facility, the better it is for their well-being. Dialysis patients, because they require treatment several times a week for multiple hours, are keenly aware of this. Many times they are elderly or chronically ill, and what would be minor issues for healthy people – driving distances, accessible parking, and confusing facility locations – are major barriers to their care. Replacing the Villa Park facility with a U.S. Renal center would certainly allow patients who could drive themselves a greater level of comfort and patients who require transportation a shorter trip.

In addition to location, it is important that we continue to provide more resources and services like dialysis for our communities. As a previous transplant surgeon and vascular access surgeon I often work with kidney transplant and dialysis patients many who have been on waiting lists for a kidney transplant for a long time. The bridge time to receive a kidney is increasing and in the meantime, their only option is to receive life-saving dialysis treatments. To that extent, we must be willing to meet that demand by bringing in more services. These services need to be offered locally to allow adequate access to the patients.

I would also like to take this opportunity to endorse Dr. Cohan's involvement in the project. I have known Dr. Cohan for more than 15 years. We frequently collaborate on patients' care, and he is the primary nephrologist to whom I refer patients. His medical qualifications are outstanding, and what is more is his ability to connect with patients and their families. He supports them far beyond their medical care, and is always willing to go the extra mile for them. Dr. Cohan is held in the highest regard among his colleagues, and I am confident that his role as

Medical Director will greatly contribute to the project's success.

In closing, I hope this board will see the merits of this project and approve its application. I believe it is the right team leading the effort and that the proposal would greatly improve quality of life for many area patients. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Gordon Kinzler, M.D.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gordon Kinzler", written in a cursive style. The signature is positioned to the right of the typed name "Gordon Kinzler, M.D." and partially overlaps the word "Sincerely,".