

## VICTORIA J. HARPER ~ Fulton County Treasurer/Collector

100 North Main Street, Box 111 • Lewistown, IL 61542 • (309) 547-3041 Ext. 132

Office Hours: 8:00 A.M. to 4 P.M. • Closed Saturdays

[vharper@fultonco.org](mailto:vharper@fultonco.org)

July 17, 2012

**RECEIVED**

AUG 07 2012

Chairman Dale Galassie  
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board  
525 W Jefferson Street 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Springfield IL 62761

HEALTH FACILITIES &  
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

RE: Project #12-052 Tazwell County Dialysis

Dear Chairman Galassie:

My name is Victoria J. Harper, I am the Treasurer and Collector of Fulton County, Illinois. I have worked in the Treasurer's office for 33 years and have seen how stress and bills from illness can destroy strong people mentally, physically and financially. The purpose of this letter is to support Dr. Usman and DaVita, Inc. in their efforts to provide a dialysis facility that will help relieve the stress from more small town and rural people. There are many people in my county that are driving to Peoria and Springfield for dialysis treatments. We have to deal with 1 to 1 ½ hours one way, busy traffic with road repairs, and parking decks to top it off. Stressed out before treatment and then all the same on the way back home. Small town people are just that, small town.

After meeting Dr. Usman, I feel he is very compassionate about this cause and has researched extensively for the correct company in DaVita, Inc. to manage. Look at the facts...

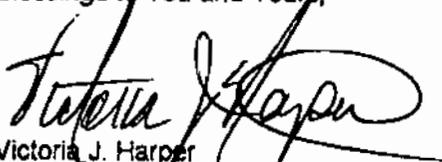
- |                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| 1) Great location- | on Broadway everyone knows, between downtown & mall          |
| 2) Good roads-     | this road will be one of the first cleaned in the winter     |
| 3) Good parking-   | plenty of ground level parking                               |
| 4) Building-       | **saving taxpayers money and using existing empty building** |
| 5) Building-       | one level building easy for patients, no stress finding way  |
| 6) Time-           | how many can we save by not building?                        |

I spoke to my County Board last week and have sent them a reminder e-mail for their support.

I just lost a very dear friend who's last "cause" of MANY in his life was to support this facility. It was the last time I saw him. He died of leukemia way too soon. And for all my other friends and family that are fighting these horrible illnesses and needing dialysis treatments, I wish to help make it so they will not have to wait until there are openings or drive hours away from home.

I am VERY SUPPORTIVE for this proposed dialysis facility and would ask your board to vote in favor of the Tazwell County Dialysis.

Blessings to You and Yours,

  
Victoria J. Harper  
Fulton County Treasurer/Collector

**FAX TRANSMITTAL**  
**FROM**  
**VICTORIA J. HARPER**  
**FULTON COUNTY TREASURER/COLLECTOR**  
**100 N MAIN, PO BOX 111, LEWISTOWN, IL 61542-0111**  
**FAX NUMBER: 309-547-0399**

<b>TO:</b>	
NAME:	<u>Dr Usman</u>
AGENCY:	
ADDRESS:	
CITY/ST/ZIP:	
PHONE:	<u>309 347-2623</u>

<b>FROM:</b>	
NAME:	<u>VICTORIA J. HARPER</u>
AGENCY:	<u>FULTON COUNTY TREASURER</u>
ADDRESS:	<u>100 N MAIN - PO BOX 111</u>
CITY/ST/ZIP:	<u>LEWISTOWN IL 61542-0111</u>
PHONE:	<u>309-547-3041 EXT. 132</u>
E-MAIL:	<u>vharper@fultonco.org</u>

DATE:	<u>07/17/12</u>
NUMBER OF PAGES (INCLUDING THIS COVER PAGE):	<u>2</u>
IF YOU DID NOT RECEIVE ALL PAGES AS DESIGNATED ABOVE, PLEASE CONTACT THE SENDER.	

COMMENTS: Hello Doctor. I am so sorry for the delay in my letter for your facility. I received a call from Debbie this afternoon reminding me I spoke to the county board last Tues. night but noone made a resolution to send a letter from the whole board in support. I e-mailed all of the 21 members, all the elected office holders and all the apptd. office holders with your information and a copy of the sample letter. I told them to either fax to you by 10am tomorrow or to get them to me and I will fax to you by 10am tomorrow. Please let me know if I can help with anything more. I can't get away from work tomorrow with vacations but my spirit is with you! Good Luck!!!!!!

THE INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS PRIVILEGED, CONFIDENTIAL AND EXEMPT FROM DISCLOSURE UNDER APPLICABLE LAW. IT IS INTENDED ONLY FOR THE USE OF THE INDIVIDUAL OR ENTITY TO WHICH IT IS ADDRESSED. FURTHER DISCLOSURE OF THE RECEIVING PARTY IS PROHIBITED.

IF THE READER OF THIS MESSAGE IS NOT THE INTENDED RECIPIENT, OR AN EMPLOYEE OR AGENT, BE AWARE THAT ANY READING, DISCLOSURE, COPYING, DISTRIBUTION OR USE OF THE CONTENTS OF THIS INFORMATION IS PROHIBITED.

IF YOU RECEIVED THIS INFORMATION IN ERROR, PLEASE NOTIFY US IMMEDIATELY BY TELEPHONE, AND RETURN THE ORIGINAL MESSAGE TO US AT THE ABOVE ADDRESS VIA THE U.S. POSTAL SERVICE. THANK YOU.

July 9, 2012

Dale Galassie, Chairman

Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board

525 West Jefferson St., 2nd Floor

Springfield, IL 62761

Re: Project #12-052 Tazewell County Dialysis

Dear Chairman Galassie,

I am writing this letter in support for the establishment of the Tazewell County Dialysis Facility by DaVita. From what I have read and have been informed, there is a definite need for another dialysis facility in the Pekin area. Patients from surrounding areas would utilize the facility.

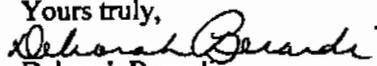
My husband, Joe, who in the past had served four years on the Fulton County Board and four years on the Canton City Council, was very interested in this project and supported it. He has passed, but I would like to speak for him and myself in support for this project. I was a teacher for 34 years and now am a real estate broker, so I do get out and talk to many people in various fields. I also have diabetes, so of course, I am interested in anything related to that disease. I live in the small community of Canton, IL. I consider Pekin to be very close to this community and often shop and do business there. Many people from this area do the same. (For example, any time we go out to eat, to Menard's, or the Pekin Hospital, we see people from Canton there.) My point is that not only would people from Tazewell Co. benefit from another Pekin facility, but so would those of many other nearby towns in all directions, especially those located East, West, and South of Pekin.

We asked Dr. Usman some important questions about this project and liked his answers. We learned that not only his patients could use this facility, but it could be used by patients of other kidney specialists. We also learned that he planned to accept Medicare patients and the majority of insurance plans for payment. He was interested in all patients getting the care they needed regardless of their payment plans. He spoke from the heart, and we felt he chose his career for the right reasons. He is a dedicated doctor looking to serve his patients.

In addition to helping make dialysis more feasible for patients, a new facility owned by a different company would create healthy competition and options for patients, encouraging both facilities to perform at their best. Lastly, it goes without saying that Dr. Usman plans to buy or has purchased a vacant building in Pekin, which would help to provide additional taxes to the area.

In closing, I urge the board to vote in favor of the proposed Tazewell County Dialysis facility. I can only see good coming from such a project.

Yours truly,

  
Deborah Berardi

1200 E. Juniper St., Canton, IL 61520



July 18, 2012

Testimony to:  
Illinois Public Health Department  
Health Facilities and Services Review Board

In Support of:      Project #12-052, Tazewell County Dialysis by  
DaVita, Inc. and Dr. Usman

Thank you for the opportunity to speak on this issue. My name is Bill Fleming and I am the Executive Director of the Pekin Area Chamber of Commerce. I am here to speak in support of the Tazewell County Dialysis project proposed by DaVita, Inc. and Dr. Ahsan Usman.

While I am offering my support of the DaVita project, I am not speaking out against Fresenius or any other service providers. In fact, earlier this year I wrote a letter of support for the proposed Fresenius dialysis center in North Pekin.

The Pekin Area Chamber of Commerce recognizes that the legislative and regulatory actions of government at all levels can have a significant impact on the business community's ability to conduct business in the Pekin area.

The chamber believes all levels of government should encourage the retention and expansion of existing businesses, the relocation of new businesses, and the start-up of new businesses in the Pekin area.

I understand there is an existing dialysis facility in Pekin. I also understand there is a need for additional treatment opportunities. Not only will this facility help meet the local patient demand, it will enhance the quality of life in our community, and fill an empty store front.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to speak on this issues.