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ILLINOIS STATE SENATE

MAGGIE CROTTY
STATE SENATOR • 19TH DISTRICT
ASSISTANT MAJORITY LEADER

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HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

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August 21, 2012

Mr. Dale Galassie
Illinois Health Facilities & Services Review Board
525 W. Jefferson St., 2nd Floor
Springfield, IL 62721

Re: U.S. Renal Care Lemont Dialysis- Project No. 12-058

Dear Mr. Galassie,

As the Illinois Senator for the 19th District, I am writing in strong support of U.S. Renal Care's Certificate of Need application for a 13-station dialysis facility in Lemont. While the Village of Lemont is not in my district, it is in a neighboring one. My constituents, among others, would benefit from this facility and the choice it offers for both those that need or will need dialysis.

I have had family, friends and constituents alike who require dialysis treatment, and I have seen firsthand how it affects patients and their caregivers. The time commitment alone is substantial, and the sessions can be emotionally and physically exhausting. While treatment cannot be avoided, we can work as a community to eliminate some of the struggles that our loved ones have to face in the process.

I support U.S. Renal Care's facility in Lemont as I believe it would help ease some of those struggles. It would provide another quality care option for those on dialysis and another option for the caregivers who have to watch them fight daily with kidney disease.

Southern Cook County and Will County have seen tremendous growth in recent years, both in population and diversity. As more people move to the area, there will undoubtedly be a higher demand for all healthcare services, including dialysis treatment. As the population continues to grow, it will also continue to age. Baby boomers and seniors represent a considerable percent of the area's population. Since kidney disease most often affects the elderly and chronically ill, we will need more facilities like the one proposed by U.S. Renal Care in order to meet the growing need for dialysis services.

It is important the renal patients have access to the dialysis treatment that keeps them well. Like any other healthcare procedure, dialysis can be disruptive and life-altering, so patients need to be able to maintain quality of life as they undergo treatment. U.S. Renal Care's proven track record of high-quality care for patients with renal disease ensures that area residents will be able to maintain the quality of life. In addition to providing in center dialysis, they also offer at-home treatment so patients can choose what is best for them.

Also, it has been my experience that additional choices for dialysis facilities are beneficial to all.

Having U.S. Renal Care's facility in Lemont gives patients greater access to dialysis treatment, but also more choice of providers and ultimately better quality of care.

I strongly encourage the Illinois Health and Services Review Board to approve U.S. Renal Care's application for a dialysis facility in Lemont.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Maggie Crotty". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

*Maggie Crotty
Assistant Majority Leader
State Senator ~ 19th District*