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Chairman Dale Galassie
Illinois Health Facilities and
Services Review Board
2nd Floor
525 West Jefferson Street
Springfield, Illinois 62761

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**HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD**

Dear Mr. Galassie,

My name is Megan Larson and I support new dialysis stations in Lemont. I am writing this letter in hopes that my support will help bring a new U.S. Renal Care center close to home for me and my mom. While I would have loved to have been able to voice my support in person at the public hearing, I was unable to attend the public hearing on August 23rd because I had to take my mother to receive dialysis treatment however, my mother submitted a voice recording on record in show of support. She has been receiving dialysis for over two years now and a patient of Dr. Nagarkatte's for even longer. In making your decision I want you to know two things. First, I want to make absolutely sure that you know what kind of nephrologist Dr. Nagarkatte is. Secondly, I'd like you to know what this facility would mean for me and my mom.

I am 30 years old now and I am my mother's primary and sole caretaker. A number of years back, my mom started having some serious health problems. As a result, I had to leave my job to see to her care. Let me tell you, when it comes to doctors, I've seen them all. And I can tell you that you just don't get too many doctors like Dr. Nagarkatte nowadays. She's not one of these doctors that's just in it for the profits. She really cares about her patients and did not leave me stranded when my mom's health really fell apart in March 2010. At the time I was far from home at several rehabilitation hospitals without our own doctors and I didn't know what to do but, because of Dr. Nagarkatte I never felt lost while trying to navigate through a complicated case like my mom's.

For an eight month period of time my mom had suffered multiple strokes during her open heart surgery that lead to complete kidney failure and Dr. Nagarkatte took it upon herself to be the liaison for her care. When my mom was recovering from her surgery in Chicago while dealing with the complications caused by multiple strokes, Dr. Nagarkatte worked with her doctors downtown and made all the arrangements for her care so that everything would be set up for us when my mom got home which I will always be so grateful for as she really eased some of my stress at the time. She would call me routinely while my mother was in stroke rehab to check on her status and care. If I ever needed to get a medication or complicated blood order for my mom I would get a phone call back from her personally within minutes saying that she had already phoned the order in or verifying she spoke to whoever was in charge of her care. It is a true rarity to see a doctor like Dr. Nagarkatte be so involved with my mother's care in a situation like that. I've only seen one other doctor go above and beyond like that who was a world renowned liver doctor at a top hospital in Chicago whom has known my mother for 20+ years. I am amazed that we have a nephrologist who gives that kind of care in this area with a busy patient load to boot! I am indebted to her for helping us get through that whole eight months ordeal and I would never ever ever want to switch to another nephrologist ever.

If Dr. Nagarkatte is in charge of a new dialysis center in Lemont, my mom will follow her there in a heartbeat. Right now, we don't really have a choice of where she can get her care. A lack of choice in our area is one factor, but another major factor is my mother is bed bound, she never fully recovered from the strokes, and as we now know, she never will. It is hard on her to have to

travel the approx 12 miles to the closest dialysis center 3 days a week in a wheelchair with our handicapped equipped van as she just doesn't seem to have endurance anymore since starting dialysis.

If a new center was to open in Lemont that would only be just under 3 miles to travel in her current state which to her, would make an already devastating situation a little bit brighter.

Right now, there is not enough staff at our current center to give my mom the one-on-one care a Hepatitis C patient like her needs. Because of that, I stay with my mom during her entire dialysis treatment so that someone is there to help her and hold her fistula site after treatment. I don't think it's the fault of the staff at this center but there are a lot of people that need dialysis. These places seem to overcrowding by the second. Right now, there is only one chair that a Hepatitis C patient can use from my understanding due to state regulations for drainage reasons. If another patient who needs that same chair is running late, or there aren't enough staff members during a shift, which is frequently the case, she has to wait another hour to start her treatment. If another patient with Hepatitis C comes in, I have no idea how they will be able to accommodate them.

That is why I am asking you to please open a new dialysis center run by Dr. Nagarkatte in Lemont. We need more options of care, especially for special patients like my mother. My concern is where will my generation go for dialysis if all the centers are now full? This is for my future as well as my mother's. This is what is best for our family and will make a world of difference to us. Please keep people like us in mind as you make your decision.

Thank you,



Megan Larson