

12-059

September 6, 2012

Ms. Courtney Avery
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
2nd Floor
525 West Jefferson Street
Springfield, IL 62761

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HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

Dear Ms. Avery:

I have had a long history with kidney disease and with kidney dialysis. I've dealt with it all. So you can be sure that I know what it would mean to dialysis patients in Plainfield to have another choice in dialysis providers. And that is why I think the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board should approve U.S. Renal Care's facility here.

I had my kidneys removed in 1996, and then I was on dialysis for 18 months before I had a transplant. That transplant lasted for seven years. I immediately had another that lasted for two years. And now I've been on dialysis this time for about six years. Like I said, I've dealt with it all.

I drive myself to treatment, and I can tell you that it's exhausting, especially in the winter. It's not as long a drive as some people, but this new proposed facility would be closer, and that's something I was excited about right away when I heard. There have been times before when it was difficult to get home. I know that my family worries about me, but I don't really have a choice. This care isn't something I can decide to skip because you feel tired. It's critical to my health.

Another reason Plainfield would benefit from a U.S. Renal Care facility is that it would give us another choice in our provider. We've been limited here for a number of years in our options, and I know that a lot of us would be more comfortable if we had more of a choice in the matter. Dialysis is something we have no control over; we have to do it. But we do have control over where we go to treatment—provided there are available options. That's what I think this new proposed facility would give us.

Life has been a bit more difficult since I've started dialysis again. We have to schedule everything around my treatment, and there are times that I have to miss my kids' activities. Other times, we have to cancel activities entirely. I would like to have a clinic in the area that wants to work with me based on my schedule, a clinic that treats me like more than just someone to fill a seat for four hours, which is why I support this U.S. Renal Care facility.

I was unable to make the August 23 public hearing at the Plainfield Village Hall because I was taking my son back to college. But I really wanted to attend to show my support for U.S. Renal Care in person. Since I could not make it, I am urging you in this letter to approve this U.S. Renal Care dialysis center. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Michael Meehan
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