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HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

January 7, 2013

Dale Galassie
Chairman
Illinois Health Facilities & Services Review Board
525 W. Jefferson Street, 2nd Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

Re: Project #12-095, Fresenius Medical Care Waterloo

Dear Mr. Galassie:

I am writing to express my strong support for the establishment of the Fresenius Medical Care Waterloo dialysis center. I have served as the administrator for over 11 years of Oak Hill, Waterloo's only long term care facility that cares for 180 seniors. As the administrator, I can certainly testify to the need for these services locally. I have seen residents of our community move to facilities close to dialysis centers because of the physical and financial burden of traveling a distance to receive dialysis services. I have also seen residents that have chosen to live at Oak Hill and have chosen to be transported to dialysis services and have witnessed the toll it has taken on them physically. I know the problems they have had even getting transportation services no less paying for this service. In addition to the problems created for patients needing dialysis, there is also a burden for the family members who are often elderly and may be limited in the distance they can drive or they may no longer drive. To be placed at a facility that is 30-50 miles away can be an overwhelming challenge.

The Fresenius Medical Care Dialysis Center in Waterloo would answer the current need for accessible dialysis services for the residents of rural Monroe County. Waterloo is a growing area and we have an aging population that is more prone to the diseases that cause kidney failure. Along with dialysis they are also dealing with other chronic conditions.

Having the Waterloo clinic in this location would greatly benefit our community by minimizing the challenge of traveling to and from treatment. The location is especially advantageous to residents living at Oak Hill because this dialysis center would be located right next to our facility. Oak Hill is the largest long term care provider in the area. Being transported long distances is a hardship on an elderly patient, who is often ill after their treatment. In addition, it places extra difficulties on the family and friends who may be involved in transporting the patient. If the center was located next to Oak Hill, residents could be easily transported for dialysis services which would improve the quality of their lives. Energy that would have been spent enduring transport from place to place could instead be used to rest and enjoy their time.

Again, I want to reemphasize the need for these services in Waterloo. Locating a clinic in Waterloo improves the quality of life of our senior citizens, especially for those who must endure dialysis and their families. I would like to give my enthusiastic support for this proposed facility and ask that the Board vote in favor of the Fresenius Medical Care Waterloo dialysis clinic.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kim Keckritz". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the right of the typed name.

Kim Keckritz
Administrator