

February 8, 2016



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HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

Kathryn J. Olson
Chair
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson Street, 2nd Floor
Springfield, Illinois 62761

RE: O'Fallon Dialysis (Proj. No. 16-004)

Dear Chairwoman Olson:

I am the Mayor of the City of O'Fallon, and I am pleased to support DaVita's proposal to establish O'Fallon Dialysis. Currently, the only dialysis facility in O'Fallon is operating over 80 percent. While there are other facilities within 30 minutes of O'Fallon, they are highly utilized as well. Dialysis places a significant hardship on the patient and his or her family and friends. It is important to have a dialysis facility close to home.

Dialysis is stressful not only on the patient but also on his friends and family. Patients on dialysis must dialyze three days per week for 3 to 5 hours per treatment, or up to 15 hours a week. When dialysis facilities are highly utilized, patients cannot dialyze on a shift that best meets their lifestyle and must schedule their life around dialysis. As a result, many patients of working age are forced to limit their work schedule or quit their jobs altogether in order to manage their dialysis care, which only complicates their lives. Additionally, they miss important events such as birthdays and family celebrations, games, recitals, school performances, etc.

Further, dialysis is very taxing to the body and there are many difficult side-effects to lost kidney function. As a result, many patients are reliant on friends or family members to transport them to and from their dialysis and must schedule their dialysis when transportation is available, which limits scheduling options. Patients with transportation access issues will often miss their dialysis treatments, which results in non-compliance with the treatment regimen. Studies have shown that skipping one or more dialysis sessions in a month has been associated with a higher risk of hospitalization and increased mortality risk compared to compliant patients.

Having a dialysis facility close to home will allow patients to better manage their disease and their lives. They will be able to spend more time with friends and family. When dialysis is closer to home, scheduling transportation is easier and many patients can even drive themselves to and from their appointments. This would relieve some of the stress on friends and family who otherwise would have to transport the patient to and from dialysis.

There is sufficient need for a second dialysis facility in O'Fallon. I support the proposed O'Fallon Dialysis to expand access to much needed dialysis in my community and urge the Board to approve this project.

Sincerely,

CITY OF O'FALLON

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. Graham", is written over a faint, illegible stamp.

Gary L. Graham
Mayor