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HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

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February 7, 2012

Dale Galassie

Chairman

Illinois Health Facilities & Services Review Board

525 W. Jefferson Street, 2nd Floor

Springfield, IL 62761

Re: Project #11-096, Fresenius Medical Care Cicero

Dear Mr. Galassie:

My name is Tariq Butt, M.D. and I am the Medical Director for Access Community Health Network (ACHN) in Cicero. ACHN is a Federally Qualified Health Center that provides high quality, comprehensive community-based health care for the under-served in the greater Chicago area and beyond. I am writing in support of Fresenius Medical Care's proposed Cicero dialysis facility to be established at 3030 S. Cicero. The area where the clinic will be is a medically underserved area. The population that lives here and will be served by the facility there is Hispanic. These patients are often indigent and/or undocumented. Due to their cultural and economic status, obtaining proper healthcare is difficult for them.

The Hispanic population is disproportionately at risk for diabetes and hypertension, the two leading causes of kidney disease. The patients we see here in Cicero are already at a disadvantage and combining that with kidney failure creates an even larger obstacle for them to surmount. Many do not speak English and navigating the healthcare system is overwhelming. Transportation does not come easily for them due to their economic status and language barriers. For these reasons I feel a dialysis center is crucial for Cicero.

Dr. Lohman, Medical Director of Fresenius Medical Care Berwyn, has a long history of serving the Berwyn/Cicero are patients with kidney failure. Dr. Lohman is a well respected nephrologist and has over the years built a rapport with this Hispanic patient population and understands their unique circumstances. He is also a strong supporter of home dialysis and transplant.

Given the fact that this is an underserved area and the fact that the Cicero is 87% Hispanic, I strongly encourage the Board to approve this project.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Tariq Butt, M.D.