

SOUTHWEST NEPHROLOGY ASSOCIATES, S.C.

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October 15, 2014

Courtney Avery
Administrator
Illinois Health Facilities & Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson, 2nd Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

Re: #14-042, Tinley Park Dialysis Opposition Comments

Dear Ms. Avery:

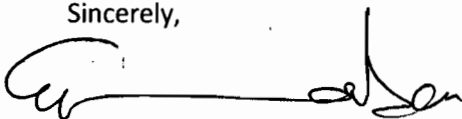
I am writing to provide comment on the proposed Tinley Park Dialysis facility by DaVita Healthcare Partners, Inc. and Kidney Care Center South, LLC. My practice, Southwest Nephrology Associates SC, has provided Nephrology services to residents of Tinley Park and surrounding towns in the southwest suburbs for over 30 years and know the area's dialysis trends well.

My partners and I are aware that there is ample availability for dialysis schedule times at many of the facilities in close proximity to the proposed Tinley Park facility. There are currently, approximately 80 open patient spots between the Dialysis Facilities at Orland Park, Oak Forest, Mokena, Palos Park, and Markham that would need to be filled before an 80% utilization rate is achieved. In addition to the DaVita owned units in Palos Park and Markham, the company is building a recently approved 12-station Chicago Ridge facility that is less than 20 minutes away from the proposed facility. I am concerned that the approval of the Tinley Park facility at this time, in an already saturated area, will be detrimental to currently operating area clinics. We do not see that this clinic is currently needed in Tinley Park.

Also concerning to our practice is the fact that the co-applicant/physicians supporting the Tinley Park project are also currently supporting another certificate of need application to establish a facility in Lemont that is within 30 minutes of the proposed Tinley Park facility (#13-040).

We at Southwest Nephrology Associates respectfully ask that the Board not approve this project now, but rather, table it until the area facilities reach their operating potential. This would be consistent with what has been done in the past and would be appropriate health planning at this time.

Sincerely,



Ejikeme Obasi, M.D.