



**HSHS
St. Elizabeth's
Hospital**

March 3, 2016

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**HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD**

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

RE: Support Letter for O'Fallon Dialysis (Project No.16-004)

Dear Ms. Avery:

As the Chief Executive Officer of HSHS St. Elizabeth's Hospital, I am writing in support of O'Fallon Dialysis, Project No. 16-004. The proposed project will establish a 12-station dialysis facility at 1941 Frank Scott Parkway East, less than 2 miles from our new hospital campus in O'Fallon. The proposed dialysis facility will address the growing need for dialysis services in the O'Fallon community.

From 2000 to 2010, the population of O'Fallon increased nearly 30 percent from 21,910 to 28,281. The 65+ age cohort had a similar increase (32 percent), rising from 1,941 to 2,554. With the rise in obesity, diabetes and hypertension in middle aged and older adults, chronic kidney disease (CKD) is a substantial concern for the elderly with both an increasing incidence of treated kidney failure with dialysis as well as a high prevalence of earlier stages of CKD.

There is currently 1 dialysis facility in O'Fallon, and it is operating above the State's utilization standard. While there are a total of six dialysis facilities within 30 minutes of O'Fallon, average utilization is 80 percent. Importantly, the patient census at the existing facilities has increased over 10 percent from December 2013 to December 2015. Importantly, this projected growth is anticipated to continue for the foreseeable future as more high risk individuals obtain better access to primary care and kidney screening through health reform initiatives like the Affordable Care Act. Accordingly, without additional stations in the service area, there will be insufficient capacity to accommodate this new influx of patients.

Finally, the February 17, 2016 Revised Need Determination for End Stage Renal Dialysis (ESRD) Stations states that there is a need for 13 ESRD stations in Health Service Area 11. This project will help meet some of the calculated need.

I urge the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board to support the proposed project.

If you have any questions or need further information, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Peg Sebastian, MSN, RN, MBA, FACHE
President and Chief Executive Officer
HSHS St. Elizabeth's Hospital

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