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**HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD**

October 3, 2018

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

Re: Support for Melrose Village Dialysis, Melrose Park - Project No. 17-029

Dear Ms. Avery,

I am the Chief Operating Officer of RML Specialty Hospital. I write to you today in support of DaVita's proposal to establish a 12-station dialysis clinic in Melrose Park, Illinois.

RML Specialty Hospital is licensed as an acute care hospital in Illinois and has a Medicare designation as a long-term acute care hospital (LTCH). We are licensed for a total of 201 beds between our two locations in Hinsdale and Chicago. RML is nationally recognized as a leader for ventilator weaning, wound care, and medically complex patient rehabilitation. We are the LTCH of choice in the Chicago area and welcome referrals from over 60 hospitals.

Our hospitals serve patients suffering from catastrophic illnesses, which are complicated by multiple comorbidities over a broad range of diagnoses. Many of RML's patients suffer from multiple organ failure and approximately 20% of our patients require dialysis for renal replacement. Most patients admitted to RML arrive directly from intensive care units at short-stay acute care hospitals and more than 95% spent at least three days in an ICU. Our average length of stay is about 34 days as our patients need time to recover and build their strength and stamina.

RML Specialty Hospital has contracted with DaVita since 2010 to provide dialysis services to our patients. Throughout the years, DaVita has proven to be a valuable partner in the care we provide for our patients. DaVita's skills, knowledge, problem-solving, and collaborative approach has advanced our care and are deeply appreciated. It is reassuring to know our patients can receive the same high level of support for their chronic dialysis needs after they transition to one of DaVita's community clinics.

RML Specialty Hospital offers our enthusiastic support for the DaVita Melrose Village Dialysis in Melrose Park, a clinic that will be accessible to both of our hospital locations. We encourage the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board to approve the proposed dialysis clinic. This care is greatly needed in the community as the dialysis population is steadily increasing in the region and existing clinics are nearing or exceeding capacity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kenneth Pawola", with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Kenneth Pawola
Chief Operating Officer
RML Specialty Hospital