

LIVE UNITED



**United Way
of Rock River Valley**

612 North Main Street, Suite 300
Rockford, Illinois 61103
p 815-968-5400
f 815-968-5878
www.unitedwayrrv.org

March 19, 2018

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

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**HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD**

Re: Alpine Dialysis (Proj. No. 17-039)

Dear Ms. Olson:

I write in support of the proposed Alpine Dialysis clinic to be located in the southeast part of Rockford, Illinois.

My name is Paul Logli and I know the needs of this community well through my work as President and Chief Executive Officer of United Way of Rock River Valley. We at United Way fight for the health, education and financial stability of every person in our community and neighboring counties. Unfortunately this can sometimes be an uphill battle. For example, Winnebago County, where we are located, recently ranked 88 out of 102 in health outcomes compared to the rest of the state.

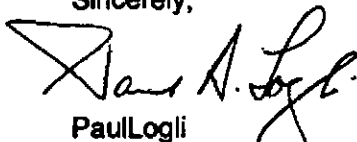
These health challenges are especially salient in southeast Rockford. For example, the Winnebago County Health Department found that zip code 61109, where the proposed Alpine Dialysis clinic would be located, has the worst access to primary care providers in the county and earned a "not adequate" determination, while other parts of Rockford were found to have "more than adequate" access. This access issue is also true of dialysis services because southeast Rockford does not have a local dialysis clinic.

This is troubling because southeast Rockford has high Hispanic and African American populations, two groups who are at greater risk of developing kidney disease than the general population. The area also has low levels of educational attainment and higher levels of poverty – two additional factors that increase the likelihood of developing kidney disease. Not surprisingly, many residents of southeast Rockford rely on dialysis due to kidney failure.

Because the area does not have a local clinic, dialysis patients travel to other parts of Rockford. This can be very challenging for those who rely on public transportation because an eight mile bus ride can easily become a 45 minute trip. It would be much more prudent for this area – where so many require dialysis – to have a dialysis clinic.

I am very pleased that DaVita is working to address this issue with the proposed Alpine Dialysis facility and I fully support the proposed project. I respectfully request that the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board approve the application in full.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul Logli". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial "P" and a cursive "Logli".

Paul Logli
President & CEO United Way of Rock River Valley