

ILLINOIS STATE SENATE

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Jacqueline Y. Collins
STATE SENATOR • 16TH DISTRICT
MAJORITY CAUCUS WHIP

COMMITTEES:
■ FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS
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■ INSURANCE
TRANSPORTATION
HEALTH FACILITIES & SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

June 21, 2018

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

Re: Support for project 17-068, DaVita Oak Meadows Dialysis

Dear Members of the Review Board:

I am writing in support of the Certificate of Need for Davita Oak Meadows Dialysis.

Kidney disease is often undetectable by the patient until the late stages when it is often too late to stop or slow the disease. Significantly, poverty is a key driver of health status, and as a result, many low-income patients who lack health insurance do not have access to nephrologist care until they are diagnosed and in the later stages of chronic kidney disease when kidney failure is imminent. At that point, dialysis becomes life-sustaining.

Within the proposed patient service area for Oak Meadows – a significant portion of which is a portion of my legislative district – 13.6% of residents live at or below the federal poverty limit for Illinois and 23.2% live at or below 150% of the federal poverty level, which is the cut-off used for Medicaid eligibility. To further magnify this issue, 9.6% of residents of the patient service area are uninsured. To help counteract this dynamic, I am pleased to know that Davita is a non-discriminatory provider, who accepts and dialyzes patients, despite their ability to pay.

Thank you for your consideration of DaVita Oak Meadows Dialysis proposed for the Oak Lawn area. Feel free to call my office for further discussion.

Respectfully,

Jacqueline Collins
Jacqueline Y. Collins
State Senator, 16th District