

RICHARD J. DURBIN

ILLINOIS

ASSISTANT DEMOCRATIC LEADER

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

COMMITTEE ON RULES
AND ADMINISTRATION

United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510-1304

December 27, 2018

RECEIVED

DEC 28 2018

HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

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

Dear Ms. Avery:

I am writing in support of DaVita's efforts to open Cicero Dialysis in Cicero, Illinois. As your Board may be aware, this community has documented access issues, high rates of poverty, and is home to a large minority population that experiences greater incidence of kidney disease. These facts strongly support the proposed clinic and I respectfully urge you to approve Cicero Dialysis.

From a demographic perspective, Cicero residents are predominantly Hispanic (46%) and African-American (22%). The incidence of End-Stage Renal Disease is 1.5 times greater among Hispanics and 3.7 times greater among African-Americans than the general population. In addition to a large minority community, approximately 22% of the population in Cicero lives below the Federal Poverty Level and 7% live in extreme poverty at less than half the Federal Poverty Level. The needs of this community are federally recognized and it has been designated a low-income health professional shortage area. Because minorities and those living in poverty tend to have worse kidney outcomes than the general public, there is a real need for these services and to address access disparities. I understand that clinics in the Cicero vicinity are operating above target utilization and that demand for dialysis continues to rise. Given these trends and area demographics, this is an increasingly vulnerable community at high risk of developing kidney disease. It is of the utmost importance that the appropriate treatment resources are in place to serve Cicero.

I applaud DaVita's effort and innovative spirit to increase access to dialysis services for residents throughout the state of Illinois. The dialysis provider is recognized by CMS for its high excellent care and patient outcomes. I support DaVita's commitment to providing high dialysis care to residents of Cicero. I urge the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board to approve this clinic and enable this provider to continue serving the growing number of dialysis patients in Illinois. Thank you for your attention to this matter and if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact my Springfield office at (217) 492-4062.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
U.S. Senator

RJD/aa