

December 4, 2018

Illinois Health Facilities & Services Review Board
525 W. Jefferson Street, 2nd Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

Re: Project #18-039, Fresenius Kidney Care Grayslake

Dear Members of the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board:

I am a family physician in Lake County and treat an increasing number of the elderly. These patients commonly suffer from heart disease, hypertension, diabetes and kidney disease. My desire is to offer comprehensive and compassionate care that will allow them to sustain a healthy lifestyle as they continue to age. With this said, the need for dialysis treatment is still in the future for many. I am, therefore, writing to extend my support for the dialysis clinic Fresenius Kidney Care is proposing to establish in Grayslake.

In Grayslake as of 2017 9% of the population was over age 65 and 41% were over age 45. Those coming into the age range where the previously mentioned health conditions become more common is rapidly rising. Despite the physician's best efforts to curtail these diseases, I fear we will only see an increase relating to this aging population.

With Lake County dialysis patients already being treated in clinics that are quickly approaching capacity, additional options will be needed to meet the demand of the growing elderly population. Area clinics already have seriously restricted choices of treatment times to offer a new patient to dialysis. As my patients begin dialysis, my hope is that they would be offered a time of day that allows them to maintain their family function, employment (if applicable) and the highest quality of life possible. I do not want them to start dialysis on an inconvenient shift that severely hampers their personal life any more than it already is with a diagnosis of end stage renal disease.

For current dialysis patients in Lake County hoping for a more accommodating time to dialyze and for those who inevitably will have to endure dialysis in the future, I ask you to approve additional access in Grayslake to lessen the burden placed on these patients by their unfortunate circumstances.

I request that the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board members vote yes and let the Fresenius Kidney Care Grayslake facility provide these much-needed services for future dialysis patients.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'TM', is positioned to the right of the word 'Sincerely,'.

Thomas McGowan, MD