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JOHN C. D'AMICO
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
15TH DISTRICT

COMMITTEES:

CHAIRMAN:

- TRANSPORTATION, VEHICLES & SAFETY

VICE CHAIRMAN:

- TRANSPORTATION, REGULATION, ROADS AND BRIDGES

MEMBER:

- AGING
- LABOR & COMMERCE
- VETERANS' AFFAIRS

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

Re: Sauganash Dialysis (Project 18-048)

Dear Ms. Avery,

I write to support improved access to dialysis services for the residents of Illinois. Specifically, I ask that you approve DaVita's Sauganash Dialysis clinic to address the growing need for dialysis services in this community.

Sauganash is federally designated as Medically Underserved by the Health Resources and Services Administration. As such, many residents lack appropriate access to the health care they need. Sauganash is also home to a large minority population: 28% of residents are Hispanic and 11% are Asian. Minorities experience greater incidence of kidney disease than the general public and can have high cultural barriers to accessing health care. Among Hispanics specifically, research has shown that the incidence of End-Stage Renal Disease is 1.5 times greater compared to the general population. There is a well-documented lack of health care access in the area. This can have dangerous consequences for those suffering from kidney disease because it is often undetected until it has progressed to the later stages when dialysis is needed to replace renal function. At that point, patients typically require dialysis three days per week, for several hours per session, for the rest of their lives.

Each of these area demographics, combined with the federally-recognized lack of health care providers, should demonstrate how important these services are for Sauganash. Additionally, as your Board is aware, existing area dialysis clinics are soon expected to exceed 80 percent utilization while the number of patients diagnosed with ESRD continues to grow each year. As such, patients will soon have difficulty finding appointment at area clinics that accommodate their schedules. It is essential that residents of Illinois have access to the health services they need to manage their chronic conditions while maintaining a balance between their work and family obligations. Patients should not be forced to choose between putting food on the table for their families and receiving the health care they need to survive.

I respectfully ask that the Health Facilities and Service Review Board approve Sauganash Dialysis and continue to improve access to high quality health care services in the State of Illinois.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John C. D'Amico".

John C. D'Amico
State Representative
15th District

RECEIVED

FEB 05 2019

**HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD**