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La Shawn K. Ford
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October 2, 2019

Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
Attention: Courtney Avery, Administrator
Illinois Department of Public Health
525 West Jefferson St., 2nd Floor
Springfield IL 62761

RECEIVED

OCT 2 2019

**HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD**

Re: Project 19-022 – Austin Dialysis at Loretto Hospital

Dear Ms. Avery:

I write this letter in support of Austin's Dialysis Certificate of Need (C.O.N) Project at Loretto Hospital. Please inform the members of the Illinois Health Facilities and Services State Review Board that I fully support C.O.N Project 19-022. The C.O.N Project is proposing the establishment of a 12-station dialysis facility in the City of Chicago. Currently, the State Board's inventory data shows that Health Service Area 6 (Chicago) has a need for 80 additional dialysis stations. The C.O.N Project is prepared to help meet those needs of the State Board.

The federal Health Resources and Services Administration lists Austin and the surrounding communities as medically underserved. Austin is an area with a large African American population, and a group that suffers disproportionately from kidney disease. Loretto Hospital's C.O.N Project will help to enhance access to dialysis care for people in our area.

In conclusion, I support Loretto Hospital's C.O.N Project. The C.O.N Project will not only provide the much-needed resources but will also provide new economic development and job creation in our community. I humbly ask the State Board to approve the C.O.N Project's permit application to further help serve the many constituents in need of this service.

For any further questions about this letter of support, please contact me at Repford@lashawnford.com. I thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "LSK" or similar, written over a horizontal line.

La Shawn K. Ford
State Representative-Eighth District