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HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

January 24, 2020

Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson Street, Second Floor
Springfield, Illinois 62761
Attention: Courtney Avery, Administrator

**Re: Letter of Support for Austin Dialysis at Loretto
CON Project 19-022**

Dear Board Members:

Gift of Hope Organ and Tissue Donor Network is the federally designated agency, servicing 180 hospitals, 9 transplant programs and 12MM residents of Illinois and NW Indiana. We are the bridge between families who tragically lose a loved one who may be eligible for organ donation and those patients waiting for a live saving organ transplant. Roughly half of 1328 organs that were transplanted last year from our generous organ donors were kidneys to help get patients off dialysis and return them to productive, healthy lives. We work closely with the dialysis community to help educate patients about the possibility of receiving a kidney transplant and making sure that those who are on the wait list remain ready for transplant.

I am writing to express our support for the certificate of need (CON) permit application submitted by Austin Dialysis at Loretto, a joint venture with Loretto Hospital to establish a 12-station in-center hemodialysis center. We ask the members of the State Board to approve this project and grant a CON permit because this project will enhance access to important healthcare services in a traditionally underserved and impoverished community. Organ donation benefits our entire state since all patients listed at our local transplant programs here have equal access to the gifts of our donor families. It is critical that patients in our most disadvantaged communities such as Austin, have access, not only to quality dialysis services, but also at a facility that we know will strongly support organ transplantation. Loretto has been a key partner for Gift of Hope in its efforts to promote donation in their community. In fact, you can see that support in the form a 7-story tall mural located on the west wall of the hospital, that Gift of Hope and Loretto dedicated to honor organs donors from the community last year.

We kindly request that you approve this application. We believe the project is both necessary and in the best interest of our community. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Kevin Cmunt".

J. Kevin Cmunt
President and CEO