

## ILLINOIS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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**MAURICE A. WEST II**  
STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 67TH DISTRICT

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March 12, 2020

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

Re: Forest City Dialysis (Proj. No. 19-055)

To Ms. Avery:

I am the State Representative for Illinois' 67th District, which includes the Westside of Rockford. I support DaVita's plans at the existing clinic, Forest City Dialysis, to add a home dialysis transitional care unit.

Importantly, the Westside of Rockford is a Health Services & Resources Administration designated low income primary care health professional shortage area ("HPSA"). A low income HPSA is an area where there is a shortage of providers to serve the low income population, i.e., individuals living below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level ("FPL"). In my district, 43% of residents live below 200% FPL (1.5 times the State percentage). Poverty is a key driver of health status and negatively affects health outcomes. It is associated with the inability to obtain health insurance and lack of insurance is a primary barrier to health care access, including regular primary care, specialty care, and other health services. Kidney disease and its associated co-morbidities, diabetes and hypertension are often undetectable by the patient until these diseases' late stages when it is often too late to stop or slow the disease progression. As a result, many low-income patients who lack health insurance do not have access to nephrologist care

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until they are diagnosed and in the later stages of chronic kidney disease when kidney failure is imminent and irreversible.

The home dialysis transitional care unit at Forest City will be four station care pod dedicated to patients who have opted for home dialysis or are considering this modality as well as patients who "crash" onto dialysis with little to no nephrologist care prior to initiating dialysis. Patients will receive intensive, high-touch centered introduction to dialysis for three to four weeks. It is intended to reduce hospitalizations during the first 90 days of treatment and to enhance modality education to promote home hemodialysis. This program's focus on home dialysis will improve the lives of patients suffering from kidney disease on the Westside of Rockford.

I support the proposed project, and I ask that Health Facilities and Services Review Board approve DaVita's application for a four station home dialysis transitional care unit at Forest City Dialysis.

Be well, talk soon.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Maurice A. West II", followed by a horizontal line.

**Maurice A. West II**  
State Representative | 67th District