



March 24, 2020

The Honorable Laura Kelly Governor  
300 SW 10<sup>th</sup> Ave, Suite 264 W  
Topeka KS 66612-1590

Dear Governor Kelly,

In these very uncertain times, I would like to commend you on your extraordinary leadership. Thank you for all you are doing to prevent the spread of the coronavirus and to make public health our state's highest priority.

I write this letter in support of another public health initiative, the \$5 million addition to the budget approved by the Kansas Legislature for the Cancer Center Research Fund for FY 2021. These funds will be crucial to The University of Kansas Cancer Center's competitive application for National Cancer Institute (NCI) Comprehensive Cancer Center designation.

Cancer continues to be the number one cause of death in the state of Kansas and incidence is expected to increase 45-50% over the next 10 years. These funds will enable us to coordinate a response to address this deadly disease. Achieving Comprehensive Cancer Center designation would be a landmark achievement and an important step forward in advancing public health in our state.

In 2007, the State of Kansas established a line item in the state budget in the amount of \$5 million per year in support of The University of Kansas Cancer Center for obtaining National Cancer Institute designation. This funding served as a critical resource for the KU Cancer Center and was essential in winning Cancer Center designation from the NCI in 2012.

In two years, the Cancer Center will apply for NCI Comprehensive Cancer Center Designation. That designation will bring with it many millions of dollars in new NCI funding that would enhance cancer care and research at the KU Cancer Center.

Achieving comprehensive designation would be a boon to our regional economic development. We anticipate Comprehensive Cancer Center designation would lead to the creation of 89 new KU Cancer Center jobs and 106 new regional jobs for a total of 195 jobs created.

The state's investment of an additional \$5 million per year, just in the next ten years, would allow the Cancer Center to hire and invest in 29 new cancer researchers who would bring or create \$56 million in new cancer research funding and create 60 new research staff positions. The regional economic impact of this legislation would be \$112 million and 106 new regional jobs would be created.

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The funds in the Cancer Center Research Fund would be used to enhance research at The University of Kansas Cancer Center in the areas of laboratory, clinical, and population-based research and in transdisciplinary research that bridge these scientific areas.

And this is critically important: funds from the Cancer Center Research Fund would be used to enhance cancer education and outreach programs for Kansans. This appropriation would have a lasting and beneficial impact on the lives of all Kansans.

As chair of the Masonic Cancer Alliance Partners Advisory Board, I thank you for your support of public health initiatives in these trying times. Keeping one eye on the future, even in uncertain times has always been the hallmark of any true leader, and this important investment in the cancer center along with Medicaid expansion are both critical for the future health of Kansans. I look forward to being of assistance on each of these initiatives and I would welcome the opportunity to speak with you or your staff on the importance of the \$5 million increase.

Sincerely,

Fred Logan  
Chair  
Masonic Cancer Alliance Partner's Advisory Board