

TESTIMONY OF FRED LOGAN, CHAIR, MASONIC CANCER ALLIANCE
PARTNERS ADVISORY BOARD, TO THE HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS
COMMITTEE ON S.B. 255

March 17, 2020

I am grateful to have this opportunity to submit testimony, as chair of the Masonic Cancer Alliance Partners Advisory Board and current Kansas resident, in support of S.B. 255. S.B. 255 would invest \$5 million annually in new funding for The University of Kansas Cancer Center effort to achieve National Cancer Institute (NCI) Comprehensive Cancer Center designation.

Achievement of 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 would bring with it many millions of dollars in new NCI funding that would enhance cancer care and research at the KU Cancer Center.

An NCI-designated Cancer Center must demonstrate depth and breadth of research in each of three major areas: laboratory, clinical, and population-based research, as well as substantive transdisciplinary research that bridges these scientific areas. A Comprehensive Cancer Center must also demonstrate professional and public education and outreach capabilities, including the dissemination of clinical and public health advances in the communities it serves.

That is why I say that winning Comprehensive Cancer Center designation would be a landmark achievement for our state.

Economic Development Impact

I want to take a moment and discuss the regional economic development impact that a Comprehensive Cancer Center designation would bring with it.

We submit that a 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 \$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.

Here is the bottom line: the regional economic impact of this legislation would be \$112 million and 106 new regional jobs would be created.

Appropriation of \$5 Million to The University of Kansas Cancer Center for Establishment of a Cancer Research and Public Information Trust Fund

The economic impact is important. But the advance of public health in our state is of paramount importance.

With the passage of this legislation, the legislature would take a major step forward in the effort to win NCI Comprehensive Cancer Center designation. The \$5 million in new funding would be combined with the \$5 million appropriated since 2007 to establish a Cancer Research and Public Information Trust Fund. The funds in the Cancer Research and Public Information Trust 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 Research Trust Fund would be used to enhance cancer education and outreach programs for Kansans. This appropriation would have a lasting beneficial impact on the lives of all Kansans.

As chair of The Masonic Cancer Alliance Partners Advisory Board, I urge you to pass S.B. 255. We thank the Committee for its consideration of this important legislation.