



**To: Senate Ways and Means Committee**  
**From: Kevin Walker, Senior Vice President of Public Policy and Advocacy**  
**Overland Park Chamber of Commerce**  
**Date: 230 January 2020**

Chairman McGinn and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the more than 800 business members of the Overland Park Chamber of Commerce I appreciate the opportunity to submit testimony in support of SB 255.

The Overland Park Chamber has a long history of partnership with the University of Kansas and the University of Kansas Medical Center. These world-class institutions contribute to the betterment of the Kansas City metro area and Kansas in many ways.

The University of Kansas Cancer Center has become a leader in cancer research and cancer care. Since receiving the coveted designation as a National Cancer Institute Cancer Center (NCI) more than 22,000 individuals have been enrolled in clinical trials. These trials and the physicians who lead them are providing patients with world-class care and opening the door to innovative new treatments.

The funding allocated in this bill supports the Center's goal of being elevated from an NCI designated center to a Comprehensive Cancer Center. This ranking is the gold-standard among cancer centers and puts them among the elite cancer centers in the world. This designation sets the stage for attracting the best researchers and the most innovate research in the field of cancer research and care.

It is estimated that this elevated designation, supported by this increase in annual appropriation, would lead to nearly 200 new jobs and an economic impact of more than \$112 million. Further, the advances in cancer treatment that result from this increased investment will provide Kansans with access to the latest and greatest treatment for a disease that continues to strike far too many people.

We believe this additional investment will pay dividends for Kansans and we urge you to approve SB 255.