



February 16, 2022

Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee
Neutral Testimony for SB 373
Robert D. Simari, M.D.
Sunil H. Abhyankar, M.D.

Chairman Hilderbrand and Members of the Committee:

We appreciate the opportunity to provide neutral testimony regarding SB 373 on behalf of the University of Kansas Medical Center and the Midwest Stem Cell Therapy Center.

We would like to thank the legislature for its continued support of our institution. However, we do not believe that we can expend the funds as currently written in the bill. To run a successful trial, we would need to gain U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approval, produce cells, enroll patients, and complete a follow-up. These steps take time and effort and could not be accomplished within the given timeframe of the bill. Additionally, with COVID-19 cases once again decreasing, we are uncertain if we would be able to enroll enough patients for the trial.

As written, the funds would need to be expended by June 30, 2022. Simply put, we would not be able to spend the money by the end of this fiscal year or even by the end of next fiscal year. While we appreciate the potential support, we do not believe a COVID-19 clinical trial for the Midwest Stem Cell Therapy Center is feasible in the above timeline. We look forward to our ongoing work with the legislature as we continue to serve the state of Kansas and beyond.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robert Simari'.

Robert D. Simari, M.D.
Executive Vice Chancellor
University of Kansas Medical Center

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sunil Abhyankar'.

Sunil H. Abhyankar, M.D.
Director, Midwest Stem Cell Therapy Center
University of Kansas Medical Center