

TESTIMONY OF FRED LOGAN, CHAIR, MASONIC CANCER ALLIANCE PARTNERS ADVISORY BOARD, TO THE SENATE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE ON ACHIEVEMENT OF NATIONAL CANCER INSTITUTE COMPREHENSIVE CANCER CENTER DESIGNATION BY THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS CANCER CENTER

January 25, 2023

I am grateful, as chair of the Masonic Cancer Alliance Partners Advisory Board, to have this opportunity to submit testimony on The University of Kansas Cancer Center's successful effort to achieve National Cancer Institute (NCI) Comprehensive Cancer Center designation.

Some of our region's most outstanding health care institutions are members of the Masonic Cancer Alliance Partners Advisory Board - Children's Mercy Hospital, Stowers Institute for Medical Research, University of Kansas Medical Center, Kansas State University Johnson Cancer Research Center, The University of Kansas Health System, and University Health.

These institutions have played a critically important role in The University of Kansas Cancer Center's successful effort to win Comprehensive Cancer Center designation.

Almost three years ago to the day, Dr. Roy Jensen, Vice Chancellor and Director of the Cancer Center, and I submitted testimony to this Committee. The legislature had under consideration an appropriation of \$5 million to the Cancer

Center for establishment of a cancer research and public information trust fund.

Here is a brief excerpt of what I said in my testimony:

Achievement of Comprehensive Cancer Center designation would be a landmark achievement and an important step forward in advancing public health in our state.

I advised this Committee that the appropriation would be used to enhance cancer education and outreach programs for Kansans and that it would have a lasting beneficial impact on the lives of all Kansans.

I pointed out to this Committee that the economic impact of winning that designation would be significant. I then said this:

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.

That testimony proved to be correct: NCI representatives remarked on that legislative support when they reviewed the Cancer Center's application for Comprehensive designation.

And this past Fall the NCI awarded Comprehensive Cancer Center designation to The University of Kansas Cancer Center.

We do not yet fully comprehend the impact that Comprehensive designation will have for Kansas. But I will say this: It is my view that The University of Kansas Cancer Center's successful effort to win Comprehensive Cancer Center designation from the National Cancer Institute is the most significant achievement in Kansas public health in the last 50 years. The benefits to public health in our state will be enormous. There will be advances in cancer care and public health that would not have been possible without the KU Cancer Center efforts.

As chair of The Midwest Cancer Alliance Partners Advisory Board, I thank the Committee for its support in 2020 for the \$5 million appropriation for The University of Kansas Cancer Center. Kansans will reap the benefits of having a Comprehensive Cancer Center in Kansas for many years to come.