



KANSAS BOARD OF REGENTS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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BOARD ADOPTS MEDICAL CENTER STATEMENT OF SUPPORT

(TOPEKA) – Yesterday the Kansas Board of Regents, during its monthly Board meeting, received a comprehensive status report from Barbara Atkinson, Executive Vice Chancellor of the University of Kansas Medical Center, on recent affiliation discussions, engaged in a formal and public discussion on the issue, and subsequently and unanimously endorsed the following statement of support:

“The Kansas Board of Regents fully embraces its responsibility for ensuring ultimately that our state, through the University of Kansas Medical Center, provides high quality medical education for the people of Kansas. There is no responsibility that the Board takes more seriously than the delivery of high quality medical education and the development of a truly outstanding academic medical center that benefits Kansans across the length and breadth of our state.

In light of the Board’s critically important governance role in this realm, we have serious concerns about current efforts to engage the Legislature in medical education matters that are clearly among those issues best addressed by the Board of Regents, working together with the University and its Medical Center.

Although we appreciate and understand the legislative interest in the Medical Center’s proposed affiliation with St. Luke’s Hospital, we believe that the proviso included within recently enacted appropriations legislation is unnecessary. It is unnecessary because the Board has, consistent with the responsibilities described above, been fully informed and fully engaged in the appropriate performance of its governance role regarding this matter. Because we believe the proviso is unnecessary, we urge the Governor to veto it.

We continue to strongly and enthusiastically support the University’s work to advance a powerfully impressive vision for the development of an academic medical center that is truly outstanding.

We continue to strongly and enthusiastically endorse the steps that the University is taking as it pursues National Cancer Institute designation for the University of Kansas Medical Center. The affiliation discussions are being undertaken within that context and we support those efforts, which could ultimately produce a range of important benefits for our state.

Finally, we continue to strongly and enthusiastically endorse the positive and impressive steps that the University and its Medical Center are taking comprehensively to position the Medical Center as an institution that delivers outstanding medical education, seeks cures and

treatments for devastating diseases, and provides superior medical care – all in a manner that significantly enhances the health and quality of life for Kansans, statewide.”

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