

Testimony Presented to the House Health and Human Services Committee
on Senate Bill No. 199

By

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Chairman Crum and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on Senate Bill 199 on behalf of the Cancer Center of Kansas and Via Christi Health.

Cancer Center of Kansas (CCK) was founded by Dr. H.E. Hynes in 1975 and is based in Wichita, Kansas. Since its founding, CCK has grown to 13 clinics serving communities across Kansas, specializing in the treatment of all types of cancer and blood disorders, and is dedicated to providing the most advanced cancer care available anywhere in an atmosphere of caring compassion. CCK is staffed by physicians specialized in oncology and hematology.

Via Christi Health is the largest provider of health care services in Kansas. We serve Kansas and Northeast Oklahoma through our owned or co-owned medical centers, physician clinics, senior villages and programs and our retail (home-based) and outpatient services.

History and Background on Blood and Marrow Transplant Center of Kansas

The Blood and Marrow Transplant Center of Kansas program began in 1989 at Via Christi Regional Medical Center-St Francis performing allogeneic and autologous bone marrow transplants. The program started as an inpatient program and in 1990 the program became the first community bone marrow transplant program accredited by the Southwest Oncology Group (SWOG).

The outpatient component was established in the spring of 1997 at the Cancer Center of Kansas, integrated with the inpatient program establishing the Blood and Marrow Transplant Center of Kansas, formerly known as the Wichita Blood and Marrow Transplant Program. In October of 1998 the program underwent the FAHCT (Foundation for the Accreditation of Hematopoietic Cell Therapy) inspection and in February 1999 became the 11th transplant center in the country to receive the highly sought- after FAHCT accreditation. The program attained recredentialing by FAHCT in 2004 and November 2008. The program was approved and apheresis donor site for the National Marrow Donor Program in October of 2011.

Through the National Marrow Donor Program (NMDP), volunteer donors who have been previously matched with a patient in need of a stem cell transplant are harvested at Via Christi Hospital on St. Francis. The stem cells are then transported by a courier to the patient, who may be located anywhere in the world. To date over 850 patients have been transplanted since the Program opened in 1989. Allowing the patients to receive their treatments close to home is beneficial to the psychosocial and financial needs of the patients. Each year 10 to 15 patients are referred to the University of Kansas and our physicians work hand to hand with KU to ensure the patient and their families receive as much care as possible in their home town.

The collaborative program has grown into an integrated full service peripheral blood stem cell transplant program combining the advantages of an academic structure, including basic and clinical research, clinical rotations, and scholarly activities, with those of private practice settings, such as personal attention to patients, continuity of care, and fiscal restraint. The program is located on the same campus with the Cancer Center of Kansas and Via Christi Hospital on St. Francis receiving referrals from, and serving a patient population across the entire state of Kansas.

The Blood and Marrow Transplant Center of Kansas offers matched-related allogeneic, matched-related non-myeloablative allogeneic and autologous peripheral blood stem cell transplant services on an inpatient or outpatient basis. These services are delivered by experienced transplant caregivers in combination with a premier private oncology/hematology practice and hospital settings. Patients are able to receive state of the art care within their local community. The integrated program consists of a single quality assurance and continuous quality improvement effort, a centralized program office, common staff training programs, data collection and processing, formal reviews of clinical results, and regular interactions among representatives of all components of patient care to address program issues. Patient data is reported to the Center for Blood and Marrow Transplant Research and the National Marrow Donor Program (CIBMTR/NMDP). The American Red Cross Blood Pheresis Services Department provides on-site cell collection. Cell processing and cryopreservation services are provided by Via Christi Hospital on St Francis, Bone Marrows and Flow Laboratories.

Traditional Allogeneic transplant patients are admitted to Via Christi Hospital on St. Francis as inpatients and treated in HEPA filtration rooms. Non-myeloablative allogeneic and autologous stem cell transplants are started as our patients at the Cancer Center of Kansas or as inpatients at VCH-W.

Clinical trials are an area in which Wichita exceeds the national average. Since 1983, Wichita has been one of the 63 communities in the United States that has a Community Clinical Oncology Program (CCOP), sponsored and funded by the National Cancer Institute (NCI). Wichita CCOP has placed over 15,000 patients on NCI sponsored trials with awards for exceptional quality and excellence. These clinical trials have allowed our patients to remain in their own homes while receiving state of the art treatments for their cancer. Currently Wichita CCOP has patients in 26 Kansas counties, as well as patient is Missouri and Oklahoma.

The Blood and Marrow Transplant Center of Kansas is supportive of the intent of SB 199, and is interested in partnering and collaborating with the University of Kansas Medical Center in bringing novel transplant procedures for cardiac, neurology, and diabetes, to the south-central portion of Kansas. We are well versed in medical research, have been a member of the Wichita Community Clinical Oncology Program for 30 years, and believe our involvement will be critical to the success of the Midwest Stem Cell Therapy Center. Because of the scope, presence and history of our bone marrow transplant and clinical oncology programs, we have had a history of collaborating and partnering across Kansas to improve access to care, services and research and we desire the same as an active participant and partner with the Midwest Stem Cell Therapy Center.

To assure we can be an active participant and partner in this initiative, we suggest the following amendments to SB 199:

Revise Section 1(4) on page 1 of the bill to read as follows: "*partner and collaborate with the blood and marrow transplant center of Kansas to foster a regional network of physicians trained in adult, cord blood and related stem cell therapy applications*"

Revise new Section 2(i) on page 2 of the bill to read as follows: "The director of the midwest stem cell therapy center shall annually submit a report to the senate committee on ways and means, senate committee on public health and welfare, house committee on appropriations and house committee on health and human services at the beginning of the regular session of the legislature beginning in 2014 on the expenditure of moneys appropriated and activities of the midwest stem cell therapy center, *including the activities of its affiliated organizations*, and the activities of the advisory board."

Revise Section 3 on page 3 of the bill by adding an additional member of the advisory committee. The new subsection would read as follows: "*one member representing the blood and marrow transplant center of Kansas.*"

Dr. Seth Page bio:

Dr. Page, a Kansas native, received his medical degree from the University of Kansas. He completed his Internal Medicine residency at the University Of Kansas School Of Medicine – Wichita in 2004 and served as chief resident from 2003-2004. He completed his fellowship in Hematology and Oncology at St. Louis University in St. Louis, Missouri. He received additional training in bone marrow transplant at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center in Seattle, Washington. Dr Page is a lifelong Kansan.

Dr. Page is Board Certified Internal Medicine, Hematology, and Medical Oncology. He is a member of the American College of Physicians, American Society of Clinical Oncology, and the American Society of Hematology. He is also a member of the Wichita Community Clinical Oncology Program (WCCOP), a national Cancer Institute sponsored research program.

Dr. Page joined the Cancer Center of Kansas in 2010 where he is excited to contribute to the mission of the center and to provide patient focused care with the latest clinical research.