

# **Written Testimony for Pat George's Confirmation Hearing - KBA**

**Prepared for the Senate Commerce Committee**

**Room 548-S, The Statehouse**

**February 4, 2016**

Pat George currently serves as the CEO of Valley Hope Association. He began serving as CEO July 2015. Valley Hope Association is a drug and alcohol treatment organization that has 16 facilities in 7 states focused on assisting individuals with substance abuse disorder. He served on the Board of Directors, including chairman, for Valley Hope Association for the past 14 years.

Prior to accepting this position, Mr. George served as the Kansas Secretary of Commerce, beginning in January 2011. During his time at Commerce, Pat led the state's premier economic development organization in its mission to empower and bring prosperity to individuals, businesses and communities. As Secretary of Commerce, he was a member of the Board of Directors for the Kansas Bioscience Authority among other organizations.

Pat is a native Kansan, who brings a wealth of business and public service experience. A true entrepreneur, Pat spent 25 years starting and building numerous successful business ventures in southwest Kansas, from his family's automobile dealership to real estate development to professional sports. He is a partner in PATS Real Estate Management and past partner in G&G New Car Dealerships, Reggie Jackson Enterprises, Dodge City Steaks and the Dodge City Legend Professional Basketball Team.

In public service, Pat represented the 119th District in the Kansas House of Representatives for six years. Pat was chairman of the Committee on State Employee Pay Plans and vice-chairman of the Vision 2010 Committee. In addition, he served on the Committee on Economic Development and Tourism and the Joint Committee on Economic Development. Pat also was vice-chairman of the National Conference of State Legislatures Health Committee; and president of the Dodge City Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

Pat graduated from Dodge City High School in 1974 and attended St. Mary's of the Plains College, also in Dodge City. He earned a bachelor's degree from Benedictine College in Atchison in 1979. Pat and his wife Lori have three children, twins Thomas and Anna; and Maris. Pat's hobbies include reading, fishing, biking and classic cars.