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To: Chairman Tyson, Senate Committee on Assessment and Taxation

From: Children's Mercy Hospitals and Clinics

Date: March 22, 2018

Re: SB 376 – Cigarette & Tobacco Tax Increase –Support

As leading healthcare providers of the children of Kansas, Children's Mercy Hospital (CMH) is supportive of Senate Bill 376. Data shows the increase in the Kansas tobacco tax proposed by this bill will improve the health of Kansas children and their parents and provide healthcare cost savings.

Per American Cancer Society data this tax increase could prevent 13,900 children from becoming adult smokers and decrease in youth smoking by 16.4%. As leaders in infant mortality prevention, the potential this bill has of creating 3,400 fewer smoking-affected pregnancies and births during a five-year period in Kansas is of particular importance to CMH. The projected 18,900 adults that would quit smoking should this bill pass would reduce the consequences of secondhand smoke on children which include frequent and severe asthma attacks, respiratory infections, ear infections, and sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS).

We appreciate your support of SB 376. Should you have any questions regarding tobacco use and its consequences on children's health, please consider CMH a trusted resource.