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CITY MANAGERS OFFICE
LAWRENCE, KS

March 6, 2010

Re: Proposed resolution expanding the Health Board, Section II, part 2

Dear Commissioners,

With regard to the proposed resolution expanding the Lawrence-Douglas County Health Board, I have a particular concern about the proposal to include one *ex officio* member, to be appointed by the Chancellor of the University of Kansas. Bear in mind that if the Health Board is to be expanded, the current Board hopes that one of the new members will be from the University of Kansas.

If we are to have an *ex officio* member from the University of Kansas, we should also have an *ex officio* member from Haskell University and one from the Public Schools. Other groups which are important to the health of the City and the County should be included: an *ex officio* member representing the homeless, one representing the blind, one representing the deaf, one representing those otherwise disabled, one representing those without health insurance, one representing those with health insurance, one representing the aged, and one representing the very young ...

Once started, the inclusion of *ex officio* members from various interest groups could produce a very large and fragmented Health Board. Therefore I recommend that you DELETE part 2 of Section II of the proposed resolution.

There is no substitute for the careful selection of Health Board members, considering at least (1) the health needs of the City and the County, (2) the needs of the current Health Board and (3) the talents which potential members have to offer. Simple rules (such as contained in part 2 of Section II) cannot substitute for a careful search for and thoughtful selection of Health Board members. Because the Health Department is so heavily dependent upon registered nurses, the Board's greatest current need is for a registered nurse. Because the Health Department is responsible for the *health* of our citizens, the current Board's second greatest need is for a second physician.

The views expressed herein are my own. This letter has not been reviewed by the current Health Board.

Sincerely yours,



Alan L. Cowles, M.D., Ph.D.
Chairman, Lawrence-Douglas County Health Board