



Greater Wichita  
Partnership



January 10, 2019

South Central Kansas Legislative Delegation  
State Capitol  
300 S.W. 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Topeka, KS 66612

Dear South Central Kansas Legislators:

Welcome to the 2019 Legislative Session. We appreciate your service to the people of Kansas and look forward to working with you to move the state and our region forward. The City of Wichita, Sedgwick County, the Wichita Regional Chamber of Commerce, the Greater Wichita Partnership, and the Regional Economic Area Partnership of South Central Kansas (REAP) all have varying legislative agendas and policy goals we want to accomplish with your help this year. In discussing these goals, we quickly became aware that we are all united behind several common legislative priorities for this session.

Behavioral health is an area of focus for South Central Kansas. We support the appropriate regionalization of mental health facilities so that needs can be met where they are found. We must continue to reform the mental health system and offer crisis and diversion services at the community level. We also support innovative solutions to combat, treat, and prevent addiction to opioids, meth, and other drugs that negatively impact our region.

Workforce development remains a huge issue for our region as well. Investments targeting workforce recruitment strategies and skills training are vital to the economic development of South Central Kansas. Programs such as the Excel in CTE initiative (2012 Senate Bill 155), the National Center for Aviation Training (NCAT), and the National Institute for Aviation Research (NIAR) help fill the workforce pipeline that leads to high-wage career opportunities.

Finally, we recognize the need for transportation funding that adequately supports our region's infrastructure needs. Critical projects, like the North Junction in Wichita, require funding and buildout to help protect drivers and pave the way for new economic growth in the area. We must also ensure that South Central Kansas receives an equitable distribution of transportation funding as the Legislature debates a comprehensive state transportation program.

Thank you for your attention to these high-priority legislative agenda items for the City of Wichita, Sedgwick County, the Wichita Chamber, the Greater Wichita Partnership, and REAP. We look forward to continuing to work with you to improve our state and region and appreciate you striving with us toward that end.

Regards,



Jeff Longwell  
Mayor  
City of Wichita



David Dennis  
Chairman  
Sedgwick County Commission



Gary Plummer  
President and CEO  
Wichita Regional Chamber of Commerce



Jeff Fluhr  
President  
Greater Wichita Partnership



Shelley Hansel  
Chair and Mayor  
REAP and City of Wellington