



**Testimony from William F. Cathcart-Rake, M.D.
Director, KU School of Medicine-Salina**

**Submitted to the
Joint House and Senate Public Health Committee
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Good afternoon Chairwoman Pilcher-Cook, Chairman Crum and members of the committee. I am William Cathcart-Rake, Director of the Salina campus of the University of Kansas School of Medicine. As Dr. Girod mentioned, our campus is the smallest medical school campus in the nation and Salina is among the smallest communities in the U.S. to host an M.D. degree-granting medical school. The University of Kansas established a four-year branch campus in Salina as one means to address the shortage of physicians in rural areas. By training physicians in a rural community we believe they are more likely to stay in rural communities.

We welcomed our first class of 8 first-year medical students to Salina in July 2011. Our second class of 8 students started in July 2012. Eventually four classes of eight students each will be studying in Salina. Our curriculum is identical to that on the Kansas City and Wichita campuses. Rather than attend live lectures presented by the Kansas City faculty, our students can view and interact with their professors in Kansas City by live, interactive television. All other educational activities in Salina are identical to those delivered in Kansas City and Wichita and are facilitated by local faculty. The main difference between our campus and those in Kansas City and Wichita is our rural orientation and immersion of our students in the medical problems and healthcare delivery challenges faced in rural Kansas.

Of our current 16 students, 14 were residents of rural communities. Ten of our 16 students have received Kansas Medical Student Loans, which covers the cost of tuition and provides a monthly living stipend. In return, these students have agreed to practice as a primary care provider in a rural or underserved area in Kansas for one year for each year of support. In addition, two other students have expressed a strong desire to return to rural Kansas to practice. Our goal is that 75% of our students will eventually practice in Kansas and 50% of our students will practice in rural Kansas. We are well on our way to meet this goal.

The objective performance of the medical students in Salina has been exceptional and their satisfaction with the Salina campus has been very gratifying. We have developed the necessary medical education facilities—largely due to the generous support of Salina Regional Health

Center—assembled a talented administrative team, and recruited a large cadre of local medical educators to assist in the training of the medical students. All of this has been done with limited financial resources. In fact, we launched this new initiative asking for no new state dollars.

Although still in its infancy, KU School of Medicine-Salina is succeeding because of its clear purpose to train doctors for rural Kansas, strong community support, a dedicated and talented faculty and staff, an efficient operational model, strict adherence to the curricular structure outlined by the Kansas City campus, satisfactory delivery of basic science lectures by interactive television from Kansas City, and last, but most importantly, successful and satisfied students.

We thank each of you for your service to our state and would welcome you to visit any of the KU School of Medicine campuses any time you might like to visit. I'd be happy to respond to any questions you might have.