

HOUSE RESOLUTION No. 6022

A RESOLUTION congratulating and commending Irene Cumming on her achievements while serving as President and CEO of The University of Kansas Hospital.

WHEREAS, On October 1, 1998, armed with only ten days worth of operating cash, no endowment, and no tax appropriations, The University of Kansas Hospital began what would become one of the most remarkable turnarounds in modern hospital history; and

WHEREAS, Armed with a dedicated and talented staff of physicians, nurses and other health care professionals; a Hospital Authority Board dedicated to patient care; and a culture throughout the hospital laser-focused on quality, the accomplishments of The University of Kansas Hospital during Irene Cumming's tenure as president and CEO are astounding; and

WHEREAS, Since 1998, patient volume has grown by 50 percent to nearly 20,000 patients, shattering all existing patient volume records in the 100-year history of the hospital; and

WHEREAS, Financial health has improved steadily every year, with revenue climbing 185 percent to more than half a billion dollars since the Hospital Authority was established; and

WHEREAS, Financial strength has allowed significant capital investment in resources and facilities, totaling nearly \$450 million in the eight years following the establishment of the Hospital Authority. In comparison, the hospital was permitted only \$33 million in capital investment in the last five years it was under university control; and

WHEREAS, This financial strength has also permitted a 340 percent increase in support provided by the hospital for the university since 1998, with \$31 million this year alone; and

WHEREAS, After purchasing the outpatient cancer program from a for-profit corporation to which the university had transferred it in the 1990's, the hospital has invested \$75 million in cancer services - including the construction of the largest outpatient cancer center in the region, opening this summer on the hospital's Westwood campus; and

WHEREAS, In 2000, the heart program at the hospital was revitalized, culminating in the 2006 opening of the \$77 million Center for Advanced Heart Care; and

WHEREAS, The hospital became, and continues to be, the region's only nationally-accredited level I Trauma Center; and

WHEREAS, The hospital's Burnett Burn Center is the only adult/pediatric burn center in Kansas City accredited by the American College of Surgeons and the American Burn Association; and

WHEREAS, The quality and safety of patient care has improved dramatically and gained national recognition during Irene's stewardship. In 2006, the hospital ranked 11th among the nation's 81 academic medical centers in overall safety and quality rankings; and

WHEREAS, The hospital ranks in the top 17 percent of institutions in the University HealthSystem Consortium database in mortality; and

WHEREAS, The hospital earned Magnet designation from the American Nurses Credentialing Center of the American Nurses Association, the first designation for a Kansas-based hospital. Only 3.5 percent of the nation's health care organizations are Magnet hospitals; and

WHEREAS, The hospital received the first Annual Performance Achievement Award from the American Heart Association for stroke care in a six-state region; and

WHEREAS, The hospital's cancer program received the 2004 Commission on Cancer Outstanding Achievement Award, achieved by only eight percent of cancer programs in the country; and

WHEREAS, The hospital is a nationally recognized leader in the Institute for Healthcare Improvement's 100,000 Lives campaign; and

WHEREAS, The hospital pioneered the creation of partnerships between physicians and hospital staff to raise quality. The model was so successful it has been adopted by many institutions across the country; and

WHEREAS, Patient satisfaction ratings have climbed more than 900 percent since 1998; and

WHEREAS, At the close of fiscal year 2006, the hospital was first in patient satisfaction in the Kansas City area; and

WHEREAS, Employee turnover has dropped from 33 percent in 1998 to 11.69 percent, the lowest among Kansas City-area hospitals; and

WHEREAS, 61 percent of the hospital's nurses have BSN degrees, compared to a 33 percent national average. The hospital has the second lowest nursing turnover rate among large hospitals in Kansas City; and

WHEREAS, The hospital's staffed beds have nearly doubled, from 275 to 508; and

WHEREAS, The hospital has achieved all of this while still providing care for those who can't afford it. Fiscal year 2007 projections are to absorb nearly \$100 million in uncompensated care charges: Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of Kansas: That we congratulate and commend Irene Cumming on her stunning list of successes and achievements while serving as President and CEO of The University of Kansas Hospital and wish her continued success and happiness in the future.

House Resolution No. 6022 was sponsored by Representatives Melvin Neufeld, Donald L. Dahl and Ray Merrick.

I hereby certify that the above RESOLUTION originated in the HOUSE, and was adopted by that body

Speaker of the House.

Chief Clerk of the House.