



September 14, 2015

Provost Dr. Jeffrey Vitter  
University of Kansas  
1450 Jayhawk Blvd. Room 250  
Lawrence, KS 66045

Dear Dr. Vitter,

We are writing to support your plan to improve the health of university students, faculty, and staff by creating a tobacco free campus at the University of Kansas. As you likely know, tobacco use is the most preventable cause of death in the United States. Second-hand smoke is a threat to the personal health of all of us, and especially to persons with asthma and other respiratory problems.

We are in support of the University of Kansas improving its current policy around tobacco and e-cigarette use on outdoor grounds. We also want to make you aware that there are efforts under way in the community to improve population health outcomes as it pertains to young children and young adults. It is important to mention that all three of our public school districts in Douglas County have led the way on inclusion of e-cigarettes and tobacco free grounds as a way to protect our youth from modeling tobacco use behaviors and beginning an addiction that is the leading cause of death in our nation. As we look at improving population health, it is exciting to think of our youth and young adults being able to, from an early age, play at the playground, go on to attending school and then move on to an institution of higher education all the while being protected from tobacco and e-cigarette exposure. County wide, there are groups actively working in this area. The tobacco-free work group, within the LiveWell coalition, is advocating for the advancement of social norms that change the perceptions around tobacco use.

We also want to mention that Dwayne Peaslee Technical Center has also adopted a tobacco and e-cigarette free policy on its outdoor grounds as well as Boys and Girls Club and Van-Go. Haskell Indian Nations University has also begun discussion around tobacco free grounds. These organizations that serve youth, young adults and adults are dedicated to establishing this social norm in Douglas County. It is exciting to see so many leaders desiring to improve population health in Lawrence and Douglas County as it pertains to modeling healthy behaviors associated with tobacco and e-cigarette use. We hope you will be the next large institution that will adopt this change.

Sincerely,

**LiveWell Lawrence Tobacco-Free Living work group**

Chair: Erica Anderson, *Erica Anderson*

Chair-Elect: Dr. Yvonne Chen, *Yvonne Chen*