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**President & CEO**

Wil Franklin

December 2, 2020

Eric Bunch  
4th District In-District Council Office  
414 E. 12th Street  
Kansas City, MO 64106

Dear Mr. Bunch,

I am writing on behalf of Kansas City CARE Clinic dba KC CARE Health Center (KC CARE) to express our support of the creation of an LGBTQ Commission for the City of Kansas City, Mo. (Ordinance #2000907).

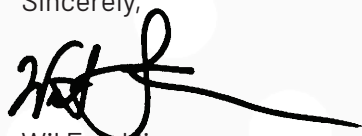
KC CARE has supported Kansas City's LGBTQ community since our beginnings in 1971 as the Westport Free Health Clinic, one of the first free health clinics in the country. In the 1980s, KC CARE led the way in providing a continuum of HIV services that remain a national model today and include HIV Primary Care, HIV Case Management, and Linkage to Care. Since becoming a Federally Qualified Health Center in 2015, we have further expanded our capacity and community reach through several service expansions, including integrated transgender medical care. We are proud to serve as a trusted healthcare provider for underserved individuals for nearly 50 years, including the approximately 17% of our patient population that identifies as LGBTQ.

KC CARE offers quality, affordable, integrated health services to everyone in the community, with the promise of dignity and personalized care. With our long history in urban Kansas City, we have always been a trusted resource to the underserved and marginalized in our community. Our mission is to promote health and wellness by providing care, access, research, and education to the underserved and all people in our community.

A long history of discrimination against LGBTQ people exists in our nation's healthcare systems. While progress has been made, one of the greatest challenges LGBTQ communities face is invisibility to healthcare providers, public health officials, and policymakers. A dedicated LGBTQ Commission within city government is a promising component in our collective efforts to make Kansas City a safe, healthy, inclusive place for everyone.

KC CARE enthusiastically supports a Kansas City LGBTQ Commission and looks forward to playing a contributive role. We appreciate the work of local leaders to advance social, economic, and political equality for this vital community.

Sincerely,



Wil Franklin  
President and CEO