

An Important Step Toward a New Research Facility

Feb. 13, 2015

Members of the University of Kentucky Community,

On Tuesday, Interim Vice President for Research Lisa Cassis and I testified before the Kentucky House Appropriations and Revenue Committee about the impact of the research you do and, as importantly, about what more we could do in the future with the infrastructure to support the talent and intellect that exists across our campus. You can view that presentation here:

http://uknow.uky.edu/sites/default/files/house_ar_v2_2-10-15_0.pptx

At that meeting, the Committee overwhelmingly endorsed our proposal to partner with the Commonwealth to construct a multi-disciplinary research building. Under the proposal, the state would pay for half the cost of the proposed \$265 million building. The university, through private fundraising and our research, would pay for the other half.

This afternoon, the Kentucky House of Representatives voted 83-9 in support of the proposal and forwarded it to the Kentucky Senate for their consideration. Although there is much work still to do, today's action is a strong vote of confidence in our university and in you.

Most tellingly, several House members have recounted their personal experiences and those of their families with UK. In moments of both healing and hurt, we have been there.

Our mission — of education, research, service and care — has touched so many lives in so many ways. The idea that we can do even more to impact the disparities that still affect too many Kentuckians resonated with our policy-makers. Our proposal now goes to the Senate. I look forward to again having the opportunity that this proposal affords to tell your story, the UK story.

Thank you for all you do for this university and for the Commonwealth we serve. I will keep you informed as we move forward.

Sincerely,

Eli Capilouto
President