



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **KHA Distinguished Health Care Advocate Awarded to KDHE Secretary Lee Norman, MD**

(Nov. 4, 2020) Lee A. Norman, MD, the Secretary of the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, has been selected as the 2020 Kansas Hospital Association Distinguished Health Care Advocate. Members of the Kansas Hospital Association honored him during their Virtual KHA Convention and Trade Show in October.

The Kansas Hospital Association Board of Directors established this award to recognize individuals, organizations or groups who provide exemplary contribution to the health and well-being of the people of Kansas through their leadership in the political or policy arena.

Sec. Norman was appointed by Governor Laura Kelly in 2019, but COVID-19 has turned the physician and former Air Force flight surgeon into the credible source for all information on the virus in Kansas. Sec. Norman received his medical degree from the University of Minnesota; completed his residency in family medicine in Texas; and his aerospace medicine training in the United States Air Force, Brooks Air Force Base, San Antonio. After serving in the USAF as a family physician, flight surgeon and combat medicine instructor, he practiced medicine in Seattle, Washington, for 20 years, also serving as clinical associate professor at the University of Washington School of Medicine. Sec. Norman has served as a chief medical officer for more than 26 years, most recently at The University of Kansas Health System in Kansas City, and before that at the Swedish Health System in Seattle. He currently is a clinical assistant professor at The University of Kansas School of Medicine and currently serves on the Defense Health Board, which advises the U.S. Secretary of Defense on health matters, and the oversight board of the

Kansas Intelligence Fusion Center. In addition to his current position as the KDHE Secretary, Norman continues to serve our country as a Colonel in the Kansas National Guard.

Sec. Norman has been a true advocate for Kansans and Kansas health care providers. As the COVID-19 cases started to rise in Kansas, Sec. Norman convened regular meetings with Kansas hospitals and medical professionals. His collaboration and dedication provided encouragement to Kansas hospitals that their needs would be a priority. Sec. Norman has played an instrumental role in securing financial support for Kansas hospitals at a time when many facilities were dialing down elective procedures. Most recently, Sec. Norman has actively engaged the hospital community on strategies related to COVID-19 testing and vaccine prioritization.

The Kansas Hospital Association is a voluntary, non-profit organization existing to be the leading advocate and resource for members. KHA membership includes 219 member facilities, of which 122 are full-service, community hospitals. Founded in 1910, KHA's vision is Optimal Health for Kansas.

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