

June 3, 2020

Dear Chairman Wiggam, Vice Chairman Stephens, Ranking Member Kelly and members of the House State and Local Government Committee:

Thank you for your work on behalf of all Ohioans as we collectively face the unprecedented health and economic challenges arising from the coronavirus pandemic. These are indeed among the most acutely difficult times in recent memory, and we are working tirelessly as your local partners to do our part to address the needs of residents and businesses during this time.

Long before the COVID-19 crisis hit, our Board of County Commissioners was working hand in hand with Franklin County Public Health (FCPH), other government partners, nonprofit organizations, and businesses to understand residents' needs and develop innovative responses to those needs at the individual and neighborhood levels. We pride ourselves in Franklin County on building public-private partnerships that grow and enrich our community, and through its licensing and community health work, FCPH is a crucial part of this fabric. We depend on FCPH effectively meeting its statutorily mandated responsibility to protect the public's health and work collaboratively with residents and businesses to respond to urgent needs; this FCPH work is essential, in times of crisis and not, to ensuring a healthy workforce and thriving community.

We are deeply concerned that House Bill 671 proposes changes that will have broad reaching implications for the local public health boards' investigation and management authority regarding communicable disease outbreaks, insert a political process in the protection of public health, add layers of complicated and time consuming administrative and legal processes to addressing urgent health issues, and introduce adversarial conditions among community partners. Please reject these proposed constraints on local boards of health and our community's ability to collaborate in our response to public health needs.

Sincerely,



John O'Grady, President



Marilyn Brown, Commissioner



Kevin L. Boyce, Commissioner

Commissioners

Marilyn Brown
John O'Grady
Kevin L. Boyce

373 S. High St. 26th Fl.
Columbus, Ohio 43215

t_ 614 525 3322
f_ 614 525 5999