



256 Williamstown Road
Ottawa, OH 45875
Phone: 419-523-5608
Fax: 419-523-4171

Email: pchd@putnamhealth.com
Website: www.putnamhealth.com

"Working towards a healthy and safe Putnam County"

May 9, 2022

House State and Local Government Committee
Representative Wiggam
77 South High Street
13th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

Chairman Wiggam,

Please accept this letter in OPPOSITION to House Bill 463.

In Putnam County, we have a strong DAC and process for appointing members to our Board of Health. This proposed legislation is not needed in our county and other counties that are exercising its authority in a suitable fashion. Board of Health Members should be appointed by all political subdivisions, not just the County Commissioners.

Board of Health Member appointment and budget approval are already public processes, prescribed in law and conducted by locally elected officials. Local public health is actively working with the bill sponsor to identify ways to make these processes more transparent to the public. Simply consolidating the appointing/approval body to the County Commissioners does not increase accountability of the Board of Health nor the transparency of the processes and decisions of the Board of Health.

Finally, the proposals in HB 463 will not resolve the local issues brought to light in discussions with the bill sponsor and other interested parties, most notably concerns about state rules that govern most delegated state programs (e.g., food, home sewage) and COVID-19 mandates and enforcement dictated by orders of the Governor and/or the Director of Health.

Thank you for accepting my opponent testimony. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 419-302-0801 or by email at jburkhart@bright.net.

Sincerely,

Joe Burkhart, Board of Health Vice President
Putnam County Board of Health