



Birthplace of William McKinley
25th President of the United States

Office of the Mayor

City of Niles, Ohio



34 West State Street
Niles, Ohio 44446

STEVEN MIENTKIEWICZ
MAYOR

330-544-9000 EXT. 1101
smientkiewicz@thecityofniles.com

May 9, 2022

*TO: House State and Local Government Committee
Chairman Wiggam
77 South High Street
13th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215*

RE: Letter of Concern- H.B. 463

This letter of concern is written on behalf of The City of Niles, the largest municipal member of the Trumbull County Combined Health District. As Mayor of Niles, representing 18,443 customers of the Trumbull County Combined Health District, and member of the District Advisory Council, I fully oppose House Bill 463.

The current system for appointing Board of Health members is not widely broken. In most cases, the District Advisory Council conducts its business and exercises its authority in a suitable fashion. HB 463 is proposing changes are not necessary in most cases.

Board of Health Members should be selected by the representatives of ALL political subdivisions served by the Board of Health, not limited to just one of the political subdivisions served by the Board of Health. ALL political subdivisions that are served by the Board of Health and contribute inside millage to support the operations of the health district should retain the current authorities vested in the District Advisory Council. The County Commissioners contribute no inside millage to the operations of the local health district.

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.

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.

Respectfully,

Steven Mientkiewicz
MAYOR-The City of Niles

C.c. Frank Migliozi-TCCHD