



Terri Argent, Health Commissioner

**Interested Party Testimony
Massillon City Health Department House
Bill 110**

Senator Dolan, District 24, Ohio Senate Finance Committee,

My name is Terri Argent, Health Commissioner with the Massillon City Health Department. The Massillon City Health Department has served the health needs of all of the residents of Massillon for over a century. We have done this by providing excellent, cost-effective services to the people and businesses in our community. That long tradition of excellence is now in jeopardy. I would like to draw your attention to the second omnibus amendment to HB110 requiring cities with a population of less than 50,000 to complete a study evaluating the feasibility of merging with a general Health District.

The Massillon City Health Department, over the past century, has proven its value and is now nearing the completion of the Ohio Revised Code requirements to achieve National Accreditation. Over the past two years, we have produced over 300 documents and spent over \$25,000 to achieve this accreditation. These are national standards, meaning that further study of feasibility would be redundant, unnecessary, and a waste of taxpayer dollars.

For our part, the citizens of Massillon and Massillon City Council have provided evidence of their support to maintain a local Health Department through a City Council resolution that I will include with this testimony.

As we continue to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, smaller local health departments are at the front lines improving access to health care for our underserved communities. We are carrying out work to improve the health of our citizens by preventing disease, promoting healthy living and protecting against public health threats. Now is the time to strengthen our public health system with the tools and resources it needs. I ask the legislature to work with local health departments and the communities they serve to fund public health and advance public policy that will help us meet that mission.

In conclusion, one size does not fit all. The City of Massillon is better able to determine the needs of our citizens than someone in Columbus that does not know our Hispanic/Latino population, our homeless needs, or our underserved African/American and elderly community. Let us continue to do what we do best, serve the health needs of the residents of Massillon.

Thank you for your consideration.

DATE: APRIL 19 2021

CLERK: DIANE ROLLAND

MASSILLON CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF MASSILLON, OHIO
CLAUDETTE O. ISTNICK, PRESIDENT

COUNCIL CHAMBERS

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

RESOLUTION NO. 5 - 2021

BY: COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

TITLE: A RESOLUTION opposing the provisions contained in Sub. HB 110 that will abolish health districts in Ohio cities with populations less than 50,000.

WHEREAS, Sub. HB 110 is currently pending before the Ohio General Assembly and contains provisions that will abolish health districts in Ohio cities with populations less than 50,000; and

WHEREAS, this proposed abolishment will eliminate the City of Massillon's Health Department; and

WHEREAS, this proposal will create barriers to critical services and reduce access to care for our underserved populations; and

WHEREAS, this proposal will make accessing local WIC programs more difficult for our families and their children; and

WHEREAS, this proposal threatens the safety and prosperity of many cities across the State of Ohio due to a potential lack of locally available immunizations, slower responses to solid waste concerns, and less expedient access to birth and death certificates; and

WHEREAS, this proposal will negatively impact and decrease the efficiency of local food inspections, school inspections, festival inspections, and disease outbreak responses; and

WHEREAS, cities are currently in a better position to make decisions for their own citizens; and

WHEREAS, funding is currently allocated to local communities, and residents are better served with local public health services.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Massillon, state of Ohio, that:

Section 1:

The Mayor and Council oppose the provisions contained in Sub. HB 110 that will abolish health districts in Ohio cities with populations less than 50,000, including the City of Massillon. The Mayor and Council urge the General Assembly to remove such language from Sub. HB 110.

RESOLUTION NO. 5 -

~~2~~ - 2021 Section 2:

The Clerk of Council is hereby instructed to send copies of this -Resolution-to the City of Massillon's state legislators, the leaders of the Ohio House of Representatives and the Ohio Senate, and any other members of the Ohio General Assembly deemed to be appropriate.

Section 3:

It is hereby found and determined that all formal actions of this Council concerning relating to the passage of this Resolution were taken in an open meeting of this Council and that all deliberations of this Council that resulted in those formal actions were in meetings open to the public, in accordance with the Ohio Revised Code.

Section 4:

The Clerk of Council is authorized to correct any typographical errors discovered herein during or after the pendency or passage of this Resolution. The Clerk of Council is further authorized, in conjunction with the Law Department and the Council President, to correct any ministerial or de minimis errors that do not substantially alter the intended results or numerical total sums of this Resolution, during or after the pendency or passage of this Resolution. Corrected copies are to be sent to all official recipients.

Section 5:

This Resolution is hereby declared to be an emergency measure necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety of the citizens of the City of Massillon; the emergency being that the continued existence of the Massillon Health Department is vital to the public health of the residents of the City of Massillon. Provided this Resolution receives the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the elected and/or appointed members to Council, it shall take effect and be in force immediately upon its passage and approval by the Mayor. Otherwise, it shall take effect and be in force from and after the

earliest period allowed by law.

PASSED IN COUNCIL THIS 19th DAY OF April 2021

APPROVED: *Diane Rolland* *Claudette O. Istnick*
DIANE ROLLAND, CLERK OF COUNCIL CLAUDETTE O. ISTNICK, PRESIDENT

APPROVED: *April 21, 2021* *Kathy Catazaro-Perry*
KATHY CATAZARO-PERRY, MAYOR