



ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

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May 5, 2021

Members of the Senate House Committee:

I am writing regarding the House amendment to the budget bill, House Bill 110. Our local health department's tireless work over the past 15 months has undoubtedly provided services and support that our citizens **would not have had** if they were covered under the umbrella of the Stark County Health Department.

Even though the population for the City of Alliance falls under this mandate, it would be highly detrimental to our community if the City Health Department were not here. It provides the citizens of Alliance with numerous services to which they would not otherwise have access. Our local health department is easily accessible to anyone within the city limits. The Stark County Health Department would be a 30 minute drive for our clientele, many of which do not have personal transportation. Public transportation and taxi services are not always available or utilized by our citizens. It may seem cost effective to merge health departments on the surface. However, citizens who don't take care of themselves and their health will ultimately cost the public *more* money.

I respectfully ask for removal of any mandate from the budget bill that requires city health districts to merge with county health districts.

Respectfully,

Rob Gress
Superintendent
Alliance City School District