

May 4, 2021

To: Stephen A. Huffman, Health Committee Chair

As an Alliance City Board of Health appointee, I hope the abolishment of city health boards where the city's population is less than 50,000 will be reconsidered. The Alliance Board of Health staff is dedicated not only to the citizens of Alliance but also to the citizens in surrounding areas. Alliance is not centrally located in Stark County and would necessitate travel if our local board is abolished. Travel would be difficult for our citizens in need of nursing services (immunization clinics, WIC program, sexually transmitted infection clinic, tuberculosis skin testing, HIV counseling/testing and more)

The Board of Health is working tirelessly during the Covid 19 pandemic as a source of Covid information, contact tracing and vaccination clinics. A vaccination clinic on a Saturday morning, saw over 450 teachers receive their inoculations. Alliance is a city of less than 50,000 citizens but we are home to the University of Mount Union College. The mobility of the student population increased the pandemic work load. Not all small cities are alike and each health department should be individually evaluated.

Patricia Tucker, DVM