



The City of

Alliance, Ohio, 44601-2415

"The Carnation City"

504 EAST MAIN STREET

MAYOR

ALAN ANDREANI, Ed.D.

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**Opponent Testimony
City of Alliance, Ohio
Substitute House Bill 110**

Chairman Huffman, Vice Chair Antani, Ranking Member Antonio and members of the Senate Health Committee:

My name is Alan Andreani, Mayor of the City of Alliance. Alliance is a City of 23,000 in eastern Stark County with a portion of Mahoning County within the city limits and directly adjacent to Columbiana County. Alliance citizens have paid through their tax dollars for the Alliance City Health Department for nearly 150 years. I am urging the removal of a provision added in the Substitute version of HB 110 that impacts local boards of health.

Under the amendment, cities with populations of less than 50,000 residents who have a city health board would be required to abolish that board. Those services would then be transferred to the county health board after conducting a study to assess the advisability of such a consolidation.

Assessing the actual population served

Our local rationale for opposing the amendment is multi-faceted. The Alliance City Health Department serves a population greater than 50,000 within a seven mile radius from those counties previously mentioned. The county health department that could potentially service our population is 22 miles away by the fastest route.

Redundant expenditure of tax monies

A health department consolidation study has already been done in Stark County. The findings showed that it was more costly to merge the health districts than to maintain the current structure. A redundant study will stress the finances of all involved.

Another redundant consideration for retracting the amendment to the House Bill for an additional study is the accreditation process. The City Health Department has been preparing since 2013 to receive accreditation. That process would have reached conclusion were it not for the Covid-19 pandemic. As a former school superintendent and having experienced accreditation requirements in that realm they are not a measure of meeting minimum standards but a test of excellence.

Local control and collaboration

The taxpayers of the City of Alliance support the Alliance Health Department by providing more than 99% of the operating funds, an example of local decision making and control.

Health grant applications for such programs as WIC, HIV, and others are already done collaboratively on a county wide and regional basis. No savings would be derived from consolidation in this area by the State.

I would urge you to remove the amendment to the current version of the House Bill. The Alliance City Health Department will continue to offer extremely effective and efficient services to our region.

Thank you for your consideration.