



HEALTH
COMMITTEE

Witness Form

Today's Date May 4, 2021

Name: Sheriff Orvis L. Campbell

Address: 2295 Reiser Avenue S.E.

New Philadelphia, Ohio 44663

Telephone: (330) 432-4664

Organization Representing: Tuscarawas County Sheriff's Office

Testifying on Bill Number: H.B. 110

Testimony: Verbal Written Both

Testifying As: Proponent Opponent Interested Party

Are you a Registered Lobbyist? Yes No

Special Requests: _____



HEALTH
COMMITTEE NOTICE

To: Members of the Health Committee
From: Stephen A. Huffman, Chair
Date: April 29, 2021

Thursday, May 6, 2021
9:00 AM
North Hearing Room

AGENDA

H.B. 110
Oelslager

Creates appropriations for FY 2022 - 2023

Informal Hearing,
9th Hearing

Invited Testimony Invited Public Testimony



TUSCARAWAS COUNTY
SHERIFF'S OFFICE

ORVIS L. CAMPBELL
SHERIFF

2295 Reiser Ave. S.E. | New Philadelphia, Ohio 44663
Phone: 330-339-2000 | Fax: 330-308-6682

May 3, 2021

The Ohio Senate

Members of the Health Committee

Stephen A. Huffman, Chair

Re: H.B. 110

Dear Committee Chair Huffman and members of the Senate Health Committee,

I write to you today to oppose H.B. 110. This legislation as I understand, would consolidate Health Departments for Cities with a population smaller than fifty thousand.

I am the Sheriff of Tuscarawas County, Ohio. My Office and the County Jail sit inside the City Limits of New Philadelphia, which is the County seat. New Philadelphia has a population of a little more than 17,000 and has a City Health Department. The New Philadelphia Health Department operates at a level of professionalism second to none.

As Sheriff, I house inmates in the only full-service jail within Tuscarawas County. Jails bring about many of their own unique issues including health care of inmates, food service regulations, environmental concerns and the Ohio Minimum Jail Standards.

The Jail inspector assigned to my jail from the Ohio Department of Rehabilitations and corrections has told me directly that our jail ranks among the top in Ohio with overall cleanliness and care of inmates. I can assure you that a big reason for our success is the help and guidance we receive from the New Philadelphia Health Department. We regularly deal with and receive help from Director Vickie Ionno as well as Director of Nursing Nichole Bache and Director of Environmental Health Lee Finley and their staff.

Our office has called on the New Philadelphia Health Department for many issues and those issues were dealt with in a speed and thoroughness that I believe can only be accomplished by a smaller, more focused agency. We have relied on their expertise for designing and inspecting aspects of jail environments such as showers and housing. The staff has dealt directly with my full-time kitchen staff to implement food safety protocols and recommendations and have worked directly with my medical staff on numerous occasions to assist with both inmate and staff vaccinations – most recently for the COVID-19 vaccine.

One of the most valuable of the things that we receive from the New Philadelphia Health Department though is an opportunity to work with individuals whom we have come to know, rely upon and trust. In a year such as the last, having full trust of your public health agency is a quality that is both immeasurable and invaluable. When State Officials struggled to convince the public, or even the State Legislature, of necessary or recommended health policies, the City Health Department in New Philadelphia was spared much of that criticism because they had built their reputations and trust one hand shake and civic club meeting at a time -over a very long period of time.

I believe that the manner in which we receive services and guidance from the New Philadelphia Health Department is impossible to replicate from larger health agencies.

If you come to New Philadelphia, my home for my entire life, you will see this is a special place. Beautiful farms, great restaurants, amazing people - and honest, efficient government. We chose to have a City Health Department here to care for our people at a higher level and in a way that our community has come to expect.

This proposed legislation is a mistake at any time, but most certainly during a global health crisis. The promise of a financial savings that proponents of consolidation often promise will not come to fruition. Consolidation would instead leave this community with a loss of service and trust and will just be one more blow to the charm of the Great American small town.

I urge you to vote no on this proposed consolidation of Health Districts.

I Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Orvis L. Campbell". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "O" and "C".

Sheriff Orvis L. Campbell