



Ohio State Senate Health Committee  
Senator Stephen A Huffman, Chair

Written Testimony for Committee Hearing on May 6, 2021

Dear Senate Health Committee Members:

As you are well aware local health departments have worked tirelessly for our communities responding to the COVID-19 pandemic and at the same time continuing to provide public health services to those in need. Our dedicated public health workforce has put in long hours in the best interest of protecting the health of our communities.

I am writing regarding House Bill 110, where local health departments fewer than 50,000 in population have the potential to be eliminated based on unknown criteria. These decisions should always be left to local government entities based on the best interest of providing services to our communities. This has happened organically over time without mandates and will continue to do so.

Ohio has always given priority to home rule for local communities. One size does not fit all and it is important we continue to focus on this and allow local entities to decide what is best for the overall health of our communities. Local health departments receive very little state general fund dollars for comprehensive public health services. Our local tax dollars fund the bulk of public health services in our communities and thus these important decisions should be made by our citizens alone. The Alliance City Health Department serves many more citizens than just our city population. Because of our unique geographic location in eastern Stark County we serve citizens from the surrounding townships and Mahoning, Columbiana and Portage counties.

We have also invested a tremendous amount of time, money and resources in the National Accreditation process. These are not minimum standards. They are rigorous national standards. It certainly would be irresponsible to pull the rug out from under that major investment that we have made in this process.

I am requesting your careful consideration on this matter and removing all language in this budget bill that mandates the potential elimination for local health departments that serve 50,000 or less population.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Randall M. Flint". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "R".

Randall M. Flint, RS, MPH  
Health Commissioner  
Alliance City Health Department