



Meigs County Health Department
112 E. Memorial Drive, Suite A
Pomeroy, Ohio 45769
P: (740) 992-6626 F: (740) 992-0836
www.meigs-health.com



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House State and Local Government Committee
Chairman Wiggam's Office
77 South High Street, 13th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215.

Dear Legislators:

On behalf of the Meigs County Board of Health, I am writing in strong opposition to HB 463 for the following reasons:

1. The current system for appointing Board of Health members is not widely broken. In most cases, the District Advisory Council conducts its business and exercises its authority in a suitable fashion. HB 463 is proposing changes are not necessary in most cases.
2. Board of Health Members should be selected by the representatives of ALL political subdivisions served by the Board of Health, not limited to just one of the political subdivisions served by the Board of Health.
3. ALL political subdivisions that are served by the Board of Health and contribute inside millage to support the operations of the health district should retain the current authorities vested in the District Advisory Council. The County Commissioners contribute no inside millage to the operations of the local health district.
4. The proposals in HB 463 will not resolve the local issues brought to light in discussions with the bill sponsor and other interested parties, most notably concerns about state rules that govern most delegated state programs (e.g., food, home sewage) and COVID-19 mandates and enforcement dictated by orders of the Governor and/or the Director of Health.
5. Board of Health Member appointment and budget approval are already public processes, prescribed in law and conducted by locally elected officials. Local public health is actively working with the bill sponsor to identify ways to make these processes more transparent to the public. Simply consolidating the appointing/approval body to the County Commissioners does not increase accountability of the Board of Health nor the transparency of the processes and decisions of the Board of Health.

Respectfully,

Marc Barr
Meigs County Health Commissioner