

May 9, 2022

House State and Local Government Committee
c/o Chairman Wiggam
77 South High St. 13th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear House State and Local Government Committee:

I have been a Township Trustee since 2006 and Secretary to the Mahoning County Public Health District Advisory Council since 2009. I am writing to you today to express my opposition against proposed House Bill 463.

Because of the limited window of time we were given to submit testimony, I am copying the talking points provided by the Association of Ohio Health Commissioners, as it fully and clearly reiterates the concerns of why the passage of HB 463 is not necessary and would not provide accurate effective representation of the District Advisory Council in it's current format:

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

Thank you for your time and your consideration. Being a Township Trustee, I truly believe that leaving the District Advisory Councils intact as is, is the most effective way to benefit the communities it serves. It is for this reason I am against HB 463.

Sincerely,



Jodi R. Kale