



Please Vote NO on HB21-1115

Board of Health Member Requirements Sponsors: Rep. Kipp & Mullica, Sen. Ginal & Priola

As introduced – and with the strike below amendment (L.001) that will be offered on Wednesday, March 17th – HB21-1115 prohibits a board of county commissioners (BOCC) from serving as a board of health (BOH).

Counties under 100,000 in population – and Pitkin and Weld (the state’s two home rule counties) – may designate their BOCC as the BOH. Many counties have chosen this option and it has served them and their communities well during the pandemic.

Here is why:

- Public Health Touches on All Aspects of the County. From land use planning to operating jails and providing public benefits, public health considerations is **THE** common thread that runs throughout county services. Disconnecting county commissioners from the public health considerations they must bring to every aspect of their job will create a silo effect that works against critical public health outcomes for communities.
- Balancing a broad spectrum of community impacts. Commissioners are well-suited for the challenge of listening to and balancing disparate viewpoints in their communities. The pandemic obviously has public health impacts but it is also taking a toll on the economic livelihood of Coloradoans in disproportionate ways. Commissioners – through their positions – have been able to convene the community to help identify solutions & innovative approaches.
- Direct connection to supports. Having commissioners serve as the BOH creates a direct feedback loop between public health and county leaders. This creates efficiency and elevates the financial and workforce needs of public health.
- Local flexibility. Current statute already allows counties – of all sizes - to appoint a BOH consisting of community members, a BOH consisting of community members & commissioners, etc.
- Accountability. Commissioners are elected officials working for their communities. Having the BOH consist of elected county commissioners gives the public a vehicle to express (and act on) their discontent with decisions that are made.
- Lack of Volunteers. Small/Medium sized counties struggle to find willing volunteers. Navigating the complexities of the pandemic and the ‘big picture’ understanding and strategy that is required when it comes to the county’s budget, public interaction, direction to departments and the economy is a task few volunteers are willing to assume.

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