



Franklin County Health Department
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Testimony of the Franklin County Health Department to the
House Health and Human Services Committee
Opponent for Substitute for SB 29
March 7, 2025

Dear Chairperson and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony regarding Substitute for SB 29.

As a local health department, our top priority is to prevent the spread of infectious and contagious diseases as well as promoting and improving the health of the entire community. To that end, we are very committed to controlling and preventing the spread of disease in our community. Any decision to prohibit public gatherings is never made lightly and always involves careful consideration of both the individuals affected and the broader community. **With this in mind, I respectfully express my opposition to this bill.**

The current law allows the Board of Health to prohibit public gatherings. The Board of Health is comprised of our local County Commissioners who were elected by the citizens of Franklin County. Because our citizens elected them, the local Board of Health makes every effort to stay in tune with the needs of the citizens in Franklin County. To change the law to only recommend against public gatherings takes the local control away from the Boards of Health, thereby putting the health of our citizens at greater risk. This also undermines the communities' ability to protect themselves from the rapid spread of serious diseases like measles, tuberculosis, or future emerging threats. We recognize the need to balance personal freedoms with public safety. However, when it comes to infectious diseases, we must have the necessary tools to keep families and businesses healthy. Restricting the ability to limit public gatherings would take away a crucial tool for doing so.

As a health department we share with the elected authorities on our local boards of county commissions and our partners at KDHE the responsibility for the health and safety of everyone in our community. **I urge you to take no further action on this or any similar bill.**

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Susan Moore".

Susan Moore, BSN, MPH, MSN, APRN

Assistant Director of Franklin County Health Department.



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.