



Lance Himes, General Counsel  
Ohio Department of Health

Sunset Review Committee  
Legislative Committee on Public Health Futures

February 23, 2016

Chairman Jordan and members of the Sunset Review Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on the Legislative Committee on Public Health Futures. My name is Lance Himes, and I serve as General Counsel at the Ohio Department of Health.

The SFY 16-17 budget (HB 64) re-established the Public Health Futures Committee to review the progress since the committee's previous 2012 report and the Association of Ohio Health Commissioners' report concerning local health districts' capacity, jurisdiction, services, and financing. Legislative recommendations to ensure a minimum level of public health services are provided to Ohioans and opportunities to increase shared services were adopted in the SFY 14-15 budget based on the work of the 2012 committee.

The new committee meeting is scheduled for March 10, 2016 and it is the intent of the legislative sponsor to be complete with its work after that meeting. ODH looks forward to participating in the discussion but recommends that the committee be sunset after the final committee meeting.

The healthcare environment is changing due to President Obama's Affordable Care Act, shifts in state and federal funding, Medicaid expansion, and the state's efforts to transform healthcare in Ohio. Unfortunately, Ohio's performance on population health outcomes has steadily declined through the years. ODH is currently engaging with various stakeholders across the state to build greater collaboration between public health and clinical care in this changing landscape and to increase the value of the healthcare dollars we are spending. ODH will continue to consult with stakeholders through a less formalized approach once the committee sunsets.

I am happy to answer any questions you may have at this time.