

28 August 2018

Alderman Nik Kovac  
City Hall  
200 E. Wells Street  
Room 205  
Milwaukee, WI 53202

Dear Alderman Kovac,

I am writing to ask that you to confirm Dr. Jeanette Kowalik as Milwaukee Health Commissioner on September 5th, 2018.

Milwaukee needs someone that can lead not only the department but also marshall the resources of the entire healthcare community. Through her leadership at all levels of the not-for-profit and public health sector brings a tremendous depth and breadth of experience. In addition, she is an tireless advocate for communities that struggle with public health outcomes based on socioeconomic disparities.

Dr. Kowalik has a reputation in the community as having innovative and progressive public health attitudes and a strong belief in using evidence based approaches to tackle public health issues. I have worked with Dr. Kowalik during her time at the Boys and Girls Clubs of Milwaukee, and I found her to be easy to work with, someone who follows through on her commitments and someone who understands the value of strategic partnerships in the community.

Milwaukee will be better served the moment Dr. Kowalik is confirmed. Delaying the confirmation of this incredibly qualified individual will have devastating impacts on the Health Dept as well as the whole City of Milwaukee. Dr. McMannis was appointed as the Interim Health Commissioner to fill this void during a difficult time for the Health Department. Instead of leading the health department with integrity, she has created more turmoil. One example of this is accusing registered nurses conducting patient care under standing medical orders of practicing outside of their scope. This accusation was levied without consultation through the proper channels. As a result the city attorney needed to weigh in that they are in fact practicing within their scope and the Mayor ordered the nurses to resume their duties. This type of activity degrades morale among employees, causes disruption in patient care and wastes city resources.

It is important that we as a city have a health commissioner that is willing to work cooperatively with citizens, other health professionals and act with reason and diplomacy to deal with the many challenges facing this city. Residents of Milwaukee deserve a proactive, progressive and innovative leader in the Health Department to meet the challenges and succeed in making Milwaukee and happier and healthier place to live. Please confirm Dr. Jeanette Kowalik on September 5th 2018.

Sincerely,  
Ruthie Weatherly  
District 3 resident