

August 27, 2018

City of Milwaukee Common Council  
200 East Wells St  
Milwaukee, WI 53202

Dear Members of the Common Council:

We, the undersigned City of Milwaukee Health Department (MHD) retirees and former MHD staff and leadership, are writing to express our sense of urgency and unequivocal support for the confirmation of Dr. Jeanette Kowalik as the Commissioner of the City of Milwaukee Health Department.

Dr. Kowalik is talented and skilled as well as passionate about the MHD's mission and the health of Milwaukee's residents, especially in underserved neighborhoods. Dr. Kowalik's credentials, Master's in Public Health and PhD in Population Health, make her exceptionally well qualified to serve as the Commissioner of a Level III Health Department.

Protecting the health and well-being of Milwaukee residents urgently requires the immediate confirmation of Dr. Kowalik. We urge you to consider this an opportunity to move forward with a fresh perspective to counterbalance the negativity and loss of trust from the Milwaukee community and stakeholders due to unfortunate events in the recent past.

We are concerned about the serious problems within the Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program and the deterioration of other services such as those aimed at infant mortality reduction, sexually transmitted infections and the Well Women Program. Under the leadership of Dr. Kowalik, we believe that the MHD can again return to the effective, high-quality, outcomes-driven organization that it was years ago, as evidenced by the numerous awards that were bestowed upon it.

After Dr. Kowalik is confirmed, we stand ready to support her in her role as Health Commissioner, and in her work rebuilding the department and its essential programs. As you can see, we bring not only many years of public health expertise, but a passion for the work of the MHD in serving the community of Milwaukee. We are committed to doing whatever we can to support the critically important work of the MHD.

Thank you in advance for your support of Dr. Kowalik's appointment as Commissioner of the City of Milwaukee Health Department.

Cc: Mayor Tom Barrett  
Milwaukee Journal Sentinel  
Urban Milwaukee

Please see following page for Signers

<b>Name</b>	<b>Last Position at the Milwaukee Health Department (MHD)</b>	<b>Years of City Service</b>
Amy Murphy	Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program Manager	1992-2007
Anna C Benton	Director of Family and Community Health	2006-2013
Barbara Coyle	Occupational Health Nurse	1989-1993
Carol Thornton	Supervising Public Health Nurse	1966-1999
Cathy Miller	Staff Assistant to the Commissioner of Health	1988-2000
Denise Crumble	Health Project Coordinator-Plain Talk	2006-2018
Erica LeCounte	Epidemiologist	2014-2018
Harriet Schlichting	PHN-Charge Nurse STD Clinic	1960-1996
Jan Rach	Public Health Nurse Supervisor	1972-2008
Jill Paradowski	Public Health Nurse Supervisor/Newborn Screening Coordinator	1972-2009
Jill Radowicz	FCH Operations Manager	2006-2016
Julie Driscoll	Operations Manager Family and Community Health	2003-2013
Kathy Blair	Epidemiologist	1977-2008
Kris White	Public Health Nurse Supervisor	1980-2010
Liz Zelazek	Public Health Nursing Manager	1966-2000
Margaret Brown	Public Health Nurse Coordinator-Lead Program	1975-1985
Mary Smith	Environmental Health Field Supervisor	1993-2013
Mary Jo Gerlach	Public Health Nurse Supervisor	1990-2016
MaryJoyce Hotelling	Public Health Nurse Supervisor	1974-2004
Nancy Castro	Director of WIC Program	2002-2017
Peter Skiba	CDBG Coordinator-Lead Program	1989-2009
Robert Colla	Lead Program Information Specialist	1996-2015
Sandy Coffaro	Public Health Nurse Communicable Disease Coordinator	1977-2016
Sara Mishefske	Family and Community Health Operations Manager	1994-2010
Terri Birt	Health Project Coordinator-Empowering Families of Milwaukee	2006-2010
Virginia Thomas	Health Planning Manager	1970-2001