

**From:** Lev and Vivien De Back [<mailto:lvdeback@yahoo.com>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 14, 2018 9:48 AM  
**To:** Witkowski, Terry  
**Subject:** Fw: Article in the Saturday Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

Dear Alderman Witkowski,  
This is a letter I sent to Alderman Donovan and copied other Members of the Common Council  
Your attention to my comments would be appreciated  
Dr. Vivien De Back

8/14/2018

Dear Alderman Donovan,

I am writing in regard to a statement you made publicly in writing on August 10, 2018 regarding the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel article on Milwaukee Health Department's decision about the MHD's Sexually transmitted Infection (STI) Clinic.

You have by now received information that the statements regarding malpractice by Clinic nurses are false. Information relating to appropriate practice by nurses is clearly spelled out in Chapter N6 of the Wisconsin Administrative Code and clarifies scope of practice for Nurses.

I believe you have also been informed by the City Attorney that there is NO malpractice by Nurses and this issue is not a legal one. It does not bode well for an Administrator of the Health Department to insinuate that errors, or inappropriate actions by Nurses of the STI Clinic were the cause of the decision to reduce services of the Milwaukee Health department services at the STI Clinic. The Nurses of this State deserve an apology for false statements.

However, what disturbs me most is the fact that the real reasons for reducing services have not been made clear. Instead it appears that the false claims about Nurse Practice are a diversionary tactic to keep us from asking the question, "Why would the Milwaukee Health Department reduce services at STI Clinic at a time when Milwaukee has an inordinate number of STI cases, both diagnosed and unknown". STI engages in Prevention of Disease, Identifying Disease (Diagnoses) and Treatment of Disease

The Common Council needs to ask questions about the need for the services of the Milwaukee Health Department STI Clinic. Presently there are Nurses staffing the Clinic. The Milwaukee communities are knowledgeable of the fact that such a program of Prevention, Identification and Treatment exists in their City And you have a growing number of constituents continuing to contract and spread the Diseases.

Without these services you not only put Milwaukee in danger but the entire County and State. Infectious Diseases such as STI do not stop at the City boarder and have the potential for a continuing escalation of such Diseases which will cost the City and other Municipalities significant tax payers money that could have been avoided, as well as reducing the pain and suffering of clients who are prevented or treated as needed.

Please get the facts. Understand the value of Sexually Transmitted disease infection Testing. And make a thoughtful decision about the appointment of a qualified Commissioner to the Milwaukee Health Department. After over 60 years of involvement in Nursing and as a former President of the Wisconsin Board of Nursing, I have always been so proud of the Milwaukee Health Department. I ask you to return the reputation of this department by your selection of a Permanent and capable Commissioner for MHD.

Thank you

Vivien DeBack PhD, FAAN

Professor and Dean of Nursing, Retired

414-531-8255