

Chris Taggart

From: Ilona Besseney <ilonabesseney@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 24, 2020 1:45 PM
To: Ravalli County Commissioners Office
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public Health Officer

Dear County Commissioners and members of the Board of Health:

1. I am not a full time resident of Ravalli County, however as several of you know, I am here in Hamilton on an extended basis with family throughout the year. My family at this time includes my 89 year old mother in law.
2. I am particularly concerned at the thought that the Ravalli County Board of Health may lose Dr. Calderwood as Public Health Officer.
3. From everything I have read and heard she has been a great voice of intelligence, reason and calm during this virus.
4. It appears Dr. Calderwood has taken the step of potentially stepping down because she and the County Commissioners have a disagreement regarding the Governor's mandate for mask.
5. This position needs someone with a scientific background and medical background.
6. The importance of this position cannot be understated during this crisis – it is paramount to have someone at the helm with the appropriate background to guide the community.
7. This is not a position that should follow or be led by political whims – a public health officer should not be appointed for the reason that they support “constitutional rights”, nor should that person be appointed just because they agree the County Commissioners' position regarding mask wearing. It is a position that should be based on who is best qualified with a science and medical background.
8. I urge you to keep Dr. Calderwood on in her current position as Public Health Officer.

Please call me or contact me if you have any questions or concerns

Ilona Besseney

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