



### Reasons for Opposition

- ODH oversees and contracts with Local Health Departments (LHDs) to manage programs and perform inspections for the following programs: foodservice operations, home sewage treatment systems, private water systems, swimming pools, body art, and campgrounds. Under this proposal ODH, would be solely responsible for regulating the sanitarian registration (required by law) for professionals that perform these inspections.
- The proposal to abolish our professional oversight board and transfer its duties to ODH with an "advisory committee" that has no power is a conflict of interest.
- Not every registered sanitarian works for a local health department, many work in private industry which are directly regulated or overseen by the Ohio Department of Health thereby creating another conflict of interest.
- By abolishing the Board and moving its authority under the Director of Health, Ohio sanitarians will no longer be overseen by individuals who have direct knowledge of environmental health or our profession.

### Talking Points

- Each day, over 1,400 environmental health professionals are hard at work in Ohio and in your community protecting us from harm. These Registered Sanitarians and Sanitarians-In-Training work to ensure that the food we eat is safe, water is safe to drink, neighborhoods are free from public health nuisance conditions, preventing the spread of disease. Collectively, these Registered Sanitarians, in just one year, inspect over 50,000 food service operation and thousands of other types of regulated entities such as campgrounds, swimming pools, body art facilities, landfills, sewage systems, and private water supplies.
- The responsibility for protecting our communities from environmental hazards and preventing the spread of communicable disease is a sacred trust between the community and the Sanitarian. Registered Sanitarians and Sanitarians-In-Training provide this essential service to our communities following the highest personal and professional standards of education and professional conduct. It is of the highest interest of the State to assure that individuals that practice environmental health do so following strict practice guidelines. An independent licensing board (the RS Board) provides this key oversight so that the health of the public is protected and is insulated from potential conflicts of interest.
- The transfer of the Sanitarian Registration Board to the Ohio Department of Health dilutes the professional status of the Ohio Registered Sanitarian. There are no other professional licenses in the State of Ohio, in regards to the wide programmatic areas of environmental health that are NOT administered by an independent board or commission. Burying or eliminating the Sanitarian Registration Board in a state agency (like ODH) would effectively eliminate the State oversight of this critical public health function, placing all Ohioans at risk.
- The creation of the Ohio Sanitarian Registration Board in 1977 helped to ensure that standards were created and that the profession of Environmental Health had independent oversight. Mandatory registration occurred in 1987, which was enacted by the Ohio Legislature and signed by Governor Celeste. Abolishing the Board and moving its duties under the Director of Health will work to reduce over thirty years of professional independence and oversight.