

Written Testimony on HF428:

Hello, Chair Liebling and House Health Finance and Policy Committee,

Re: Bill proposal re grant for Local Public Health.

Something to consider that can make this bill even more effective and help many people: During this pandemic, many Older People and Vulnerable Adults living in Long Term Care And At home were greatly affected. Many people died that shouldn't have. Many people were very seriously impacted. I believe one of the the things that could have prevented this is much more direct involvement and input from Older People AND People with Disabilities, both from long term care and living in the home/community.

I personally tried very hard to get area Public Health Agencies to proactively seek and accept feedback from People with Disabilities And Older People, and follow through.

I feel in most cases I got a token response or no response at all, especially when things got to the Emergency Management phase of the Pandemic.

It is essential that more people from the community Including those people who have disabilities, their families And Older People be actively included in Emergency Planning and Management AND Local Public Health efforts Not just "stakeholder groups"

Because there is a saying, "If you met one person with a disability, you've met one person with a disability." And there is so much need for a variety of input from older people and their families and advocates.

So my request and proposal is that in order to receive this grant money (Which is probably opt in) that those applying for it meet some basic standards

***accessible websites

***demonstrate how they plan to include Older People and People with disabilities and people from the community in Emergency Management and Public Health Planning and implementation And

***Learn more about People with Disabilities and Older People And demonstrate understanding. Much excellent free training is available.

***List County ADA Coordinator and Contact information in their materials and websites and include an accessibility statement. (One resource for learning is the ADA Coordinator Training Certification Program through the Great Plains ADA Center.)

*To help those who may be experiencing obstacles re this request, there are Some things that can help: Broadband and Accessibility grants

Support for Training (much free training is available including from the National ADA Centers)

Can include support for staff time

A strong council or Committee where people are included and heard (Requesting that at least one or more legislators be members) Where the focus is How to include marginalized populations (especially older people and people with disabilities) in Emergency Management and Local Public Health efforts.

Thank you.

Kim Pettman

(I will leave my contact information with Chair Liebling for the members of this committee.)