

# **BOARD OF HEALTH**

for Madison and Dane County

Dr. Jerry Halverson, Chair  
Kim Whitmore, Vice Chair  
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Paula Tran Inzeo  
Dr. Debbie Jones  
City of Madison Alder Lindsey Lemmer  
Dane County Supervisor Holly Hatcher

DATE: July 27, 2020

SUBJECT: Letter of Support

FROM: Board of Health for Madison and Dane County

Dear Director Heinrich,

We are writing this letter of support on behalf of the Board of Health for Madison and Dane County. Together, we want to first offer our sincere appreciation for all you and everyone at Public Health Madison & Dane County are doing to help keep our community safe and healthy during the COVID-19 Pandemic. Your tireless efforts and dedication to the mission of Public Health Madison & Dane County are commendable.

We are aware of recent concerns raised about the Forward Dane plan by elected officials and wish to offer our full support. Forward Dane is a data-driven approach that carefully balances the immediate health and safety of our community with economic wellbeing, which we know is a critical social determinant of health. The focus on equity in the plan is admirable, specifically related to the protections outlined for essential workers, who often come from economically disadvantaged racial minority communities.

We understand the nature of this pandemic as a public health crisis, recognizing that critical decisions need to be made often in the moment. While consultation with the Board of Health is not always possible due to the time-sensitive nature, we have confidence in the department to make these evidenced-based, data-driven decisions. We appreciate the ways in which we have been kept informed via BOH meetings, email updates, and regular public messaging from the department.

In closing, we offer our full support of the Forward Dane plan and Public Health Madison & Dane County. Thank you for your continued leadership.

Sincerely,

Board of Health for Madison and Dane County

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