

Good Morning, Chairman Weisz and esteemed members of the House Human Service Committee.

For the record, I am Representative Bill Devlin, of District 23 and I live in Finley.

I am here to introduce HB 1418 with the amendments before us today will change the present requirements for the qualification for the State Health Officer to be a licensed physician with public health experience. The amendment before you, removes the language that says the person must have demonstrated experience in the management of people. I have learned as I worked through this process that physicians don't always provide the management of the staff in their own practice and hire others to do that. I understand that would be the same in the state position, so I did not want to limit a qualified person from being appointed because they have a partner or another person in the office who did the actual management of the people in their practice.

The overstrike over the advisory committee is because you don't need that committee when you have the doctor in the position. Keep in mind that the advisory committee is different than the Health Council, which remains in place no matter what qualifications the person holding the Health Officer's position holds.

I firmly believe the Public Health Officer should always be a medical doctor with certain other qualifications. That is the intent of this bill and I believe is a necessary step for the citizens of our state.

Chairman Weisz and members of the committee is HB 1418. I would be happy to try answer any questions but there might be others wanting to testify that might bring more expertise into the matter.

Thank you!