



BOROUGH OF NORTHVALE
County of Bergen
State of New Jersey



MOTION: Alice English

SECOND: Shirley DeCicco

RESOLUTION #2007-03

Petition New Jersey Legislator's Opposing the Consolidation and Regionalization of Local Public Health Services

WHEREAS, current State Statute is in place that allows and facilitates consolidation and regionalization of local public health services that protect New Jersey's 8.7 million residents; and

WHEREAS, NJSA 26:3A2-1 et seq. permits municipalities to participate in regionalization efforts best suited to the needs of their residents via inter local contracts with other municipalities, participating in the formation of Regional Health Commissions, or by contracting with a county health department; and

WHEREAS, public health should be viewed as the model of municipal consolidation, as there are only 115 health departments serving the State's 566 municipalities; and

WHEREAS, the present consolidation of public health services is similar to, and in some cases, better than other northeastern states that are alike in character and population density; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey's current public health system mirrors population-based public health systems across the country in that nationwide, the majority of health departments serve jurisdictions with populations less than 50,000; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey's current public health workforce is below the national average and projections are that the workforce will be declining through natural attrition; and

WHEREAS, a further reduction of health departments is likely to result in an erosion of trained and experienced individuals capable of responding to public health emergencies; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey is the most densely populated state in the nation, and a further reduction in the number of health departments and personnel performing essential health services at the local level will result in the elimination of vital programs and services that positively impact the health of New Jersey residents and employees; and

WHEREAS, licensed Health Officers in the state of New Jersey function in capacities such as emergency responders and providers of direct services in addition to their administrative role; and

WHEREAS, consolidation and regionalization that adequately and appropriately prevents disease, promotes public health and protects communities is encouraged; and

WHEREAS, consolidation solely based on arbitrary geographic boundaries is likely to not provide the best public health services to prevent disease, promote public health and protect communities; and

WHEREAS, such consolidation is not likely to save taxpayer dollars, but is likely to erode the current public health system, and

WHEREAS, both the New Jersey State Department of Health and Senior Services and the New Jersey Health Officers Association are in the process of evaluating the current public health system in New Jersey for the purpose of recommending potential changes to improve the system.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Northvale Board of Health is hereby opposed to consolidation for the sake of consolidation and forced consolidation of public health services at the county level.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Northvale Board of Health is also opposed to Senate Bill 2244, which directs the Department of Community Affairs to evaluate public health systems with no basis of knowledge to do so, and repeals the statutory language maintaining the current public health workforce.

I hereby certify that this is a true copy
of the Resolution passed by the Board of Health at
their regular meeting held on
January 11, 2007

Susan Witkowski, Board Secretary

	Yes	No	Absent	Abstain
DeCicco	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
English	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Levine	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
McCormack	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rooney	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>