

# LARIMER COUNTY | BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

P.O. Box 1190, Fort Collins, Colorado 80522-1190, 970.498.7010, Larimer.org

November 2, 2021

Senator Rob Woodward  
Senator Barb Kirkmeyer  
Minority Leader Hugh McKean  
Representative Mike Lynch

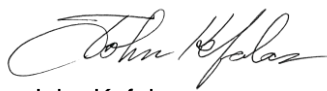
We are in receipt of your letter dated November 1, 2021 urging us to direct the Board of Health to immediately terminate the Larimer County Public Health Director. We wish to clarify three points raised by the correspondence.

The Board of Health is an independent body established under the parameters set forth in Colorado State Statute. By design, the Board of Health has autonomy from political bodies such as the County Commissioners and state elected officials. The wisdom of that statute is that public health is a matter of science and medical options and should not be subject to political influence. We do not have the authority to direct the established Board of Health.

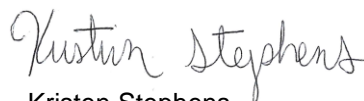
We'd like to clarify the facts behind the October 26, 2021 email string originating from the Public Health Director about the trailer parked on private property near the Larimer County Public Health Department office. The trailer was in essence a sign, not a transportation vehicle. We regret responding to the email string because of the perception it has created that we were attempting to suppress free speech. We value free speech as is evidenced by the multiple lines of communication we nurture with our community. Our replies centered around the potential sign code or land use code violations the trailer might represent. In hindsight, we should have left those questions to the City of Fort Collins that has jurisdiction over sign codes and land use codes in their municipality.

When we step back and look at the enormous impact COVID-19 is having on our county, the state and the nation, we see not only health impacts, but also the impacts of disharmony and division in our community. Those forces threaten us all even after science eventually triumphs over the virus. We ask that you use your power and influence to help bring people together. Calm and patient leadership should be practiced by elected officials like the four of you and the three of us in this trying time. We are committed to sincerely hearing the voices of all, supporting our public health officials, and fostering compassionate unity of all community members. We welcome your ideas for achieving these goals. Together, we'll get through this crisis.

Sincerely,



John Kefalas  
District 1 Commissioner



Kristen Stephens  
District 2 Commissioner



Jody Shadduck-McNally  
District 3 Commissioner

