



5.18 (e)

Dear members of the City of Hamilton Board of Health,

I am writing to express my support of Councillor Kroetsch's motion to restructure the Board of Health for the City of Hamilton. As a pediatric oncologist at McMaster Children's Hospital and a child health researcher, I have been able to see the impacts of the decisions of the Board of Health on children in our region. It is critical that these decisions are informed by and made in alignment with those of us who spend our days focused on the health and well-being of our community and include voices from equity-deserving groups.

The Boards of Health for Ottawa and Toronto, as examples, have included members of the community and health professions, and have been better able to have specific and community-based responses to some of the most pressing health issues facing their communities. I feel as though Hamilton can and should do the same. While I understand that some members may feel that unelected health professions members may be "unaccountable", please trust me when I say that we spend the majority of our lives accountable to the individual patients in front of us each day. We take our work home, and we are available at all hours. Being able to assist in setting policies that serve the health of these patients more broadly – rather than just providing band-aids for the impacts of poor policies in our clinics – would be incredibly rewarding, and it is an affront to our oath to suggest that we would not continue to be accountable to the health of our communities in this respect as well.

I would be happy to discuss further at any juncture.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stacey Marjerrison".

Stacey Marjerrison, MD MSc FRCPC

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