



April 27, 2020

Via E-mail Only

Flathead County
Board of Commissioners
800 South Main Street
Kalispell, MT 59901-5435

RE: Request for Dr. Bukacek's Removal

Dear Commissioners:

We are writing to urge you to remove Dr. Annie Bukacek from the Flathead City-County Board of Health. Dr. Bukacek's recent actions rise to the level of malfeasance, violate the public trust, and cannot be tolerated.

In a video that has gained nationwide attention, Dr. Bukacek blatantly used her position as a Board member not only to spread inaccurate information regarding COVID-19 to the public, but also to push her own personal political agenda. Her organization of a rally to protest the City of Kalispell's emergency COVID-19 declaration on April 6, 2020, was a direct violation of the Governor's orders. Dr. Bukacek's actions demonstrate an appalling disregard of the clear direction given by both state and local officials. Rather than promoting public health, as is Dr. Bukacek's obligation, she is actively undermining it by publicly diminishing the very real threat of COVID-19. Simply put, Dr. Bukacek is a danger to the citizens of Flathead County, and given the viral status of her video, the entire country.

We recognize that as a private citizen, Dr. Bukacek enjoys the same right to engage in free speech that we all do. However, her use of her position as a Board member to promote her personal views (which lack scientific support, and if followed would undoubtedly endanger the public health) as well as to broadcast

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fallacies, and incite others to violate and ignore a lawful order of the Governor, is unacceptable. Dr. Bukacek's right to engage in free speech ends where the public's right to be safe from COVID-19 begins. It is imperative that she immediately be removed as a Board member.

Sincerely,

/s/ John M. Muhlfeld
John M. Muhlfeld, Mayor

/s/ Andy Feury
Andy Feury, Councilor

/s/ Melissa Hartman
Melissa Hartman, Councilor

/s/ Ryan Hennen
Ryan Hennen, Councilor

/s/ Rebecca Norton
Rebecca Norton, Councilor

/s/ Steve Qunell
Steve Qunell, Councilor

/s/ Frank Sweeney
Frank Sweeney, Councilor

cc: Dana Smith, City Manager
Angela Jacobs, City Attorney
Flathead City-County Board of Health