

From: [Council](#)
To: [Lisa Bruner](#); [Cathy Halka](#); [Kristi Felbinger](#); [Jenna Gernand](#); [Tara Jackson](#); [Kirsten Smith](#)
Subject: FW: Support from the Northwest Washington Medical Society for Board of Health Restructuring
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From: Jeffery, Garrett <GJeffery@peacehealth.org>
Sent: Monday, October 13, 2025 7:05:46 AM (UTC-08:00) Pacific Time (US & Canada)
To: Council <Council@co.whatcom.wa.us>
Cc: April Metz de Montiel <april@northwestmedical.org>
Subject: Support from the Northwest Washington Medical Society for Board of Health Restructuring

Dear Councilmembers,

I hope this message finds you well. I'm writing on behalf of the Northwest Washington Medical Society to share that our board voted unanimously to support the proposed restructuring of the Whatcom County Board of Health. We appreciate the careful and transparent process you've led, and the thoughtful collaboration between Dr. Harley, Councilmember Scanlon, and other local leaders in shaping these recommendations.

We agree that establishing a Board of Health joined by designated representatives for public health expertise, healthcare providers, and community leaders will create a more effective structure that meets the intent of state law. This approach ensures consistent input from those working directly in public health and patient care. As the Board of Health takes on this new shape, we noted that it may be important to bring intentional clarity to the future role of the Public Health Advisory Board, ensuring its contributions remain meaningful and well aligned with this new framework.

As physicians, we see every day how policy decisions translate into health outcomes for our patients and neighbors. A structure that balances accountability, expertise, and community representation will strengthen our county's ability to prepare for and respond to health challenges across Whatcom County.

Thank you for your steady leadership and for inviting community partners into this important discussion. Our members represent a broad range of clinical experience and would be glad to serve as a resource if questions arise where a medical perspective may be helpful. Please don't hesitate to reach out if we can assist in any way as the new structure takes shape.

Garrett S. Jeffery, DO, FAFAP
President, Northwest Washington Medical Society
Section Chief, Family Medicine NW Network, PeaceHealth

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