



STATE OF WASHINGTON
WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF HEALTH

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WHEREAS the Washington State Board of Health was established by the State Constitution in 1889;

WHEREAS the Board provides a forum for developing public health policy in Washington State and is empowered to hold hearings and explore ways to improve the health status of people in Washington;

WHEREAS Stephen Kutz was appointed to the Board in April 2011 by Governor Gregoire to serve as an individual from a federally recognized tribe with experience in matters of health and sanitation; and Governor Inslee subsequently reappointed him in 2013, 2016 and 2019;

WHEREAS Mr. Kutz brought to the Board a rich and varied background, as an American Indian activist and health care leader at the local, state, and national levels;

WHEREAS Mr. Kutz has dedicated more than 50 years to improving the health of service members, tribal and local communities through his work with the US Army Public Health and Occupational Health programs, the Cowlitz and Suquamish Indian Tribes, and Mason County Department of Health Services;

WHEREAS Mr. Kutz has a deep and abiding dedication to our country as evidenced by his career in the United States Army, retiring as a US Army Lieutenant Colonel with 20 years as an Army Nurse with the US Army Medical Department and four-and-a-half years with US Army Reserves;

WHEREAS Mr. Kutz has dedicated much of his distinguished career to tribal communities, serving as a member of the Cowlitz Tribal Council for more than 20 years, working with Indian Health Services and his tribe to establish the Cowlitz Indian Tribal Clinics in Longview, Vancouver and Seattle, and serving as a member of the CDC and the NIH Tribal Advisory Committees, and most recently through his work as the Health Clinic Director for the Suquamish Indian Tribe, where he is establishing the first tribal health clinic to provide the health care that was that was promised under the Point Elliot Treaty in 1855;

WHEREAS Mr. Kutz continues to lead and create opportunities for improved health and health care for the people of his community and people across Washington state through his efforts as a founding board member of multiple Accountable Communities of Health; his capable chairmanship of the American Indian Health Commission, and his participation on the Governor's Health Advisory Council;

WHEREAS Mr. Kutz has exhibited a profound commitment to assuring foundational public health services are available in every community in Washington through his leadership as a co-chair of the state's Foundational Public Health Services committee, which has helped secure funding for the governmental public health system in the amount of \$175 million for the 2021-23 biennium;

WHEREAS Mr. Kutz has somehow, remarkably, found the time actively engage in Board meetings and policy committee meetings, sponsor critical rule development projects such as notifiable conditions and

handling of human remains, and serve as the Board's representative to the Governor's Interagency Council on Health Disparities, and in doing so has brought the sum of his life experience and wisdom, assuring that the voices of Indian Country are heard in the Board's deliberations;

WHEREAS Mr. Kutz has accomplished this and much more with compassion and integrity;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board recognizes and thanks Stephen Kutz for more than eleven years of dedicated and outstanding service to the people of Washington State by working to assure the public's health as a member of the Washington State Board of Health.



Keith Grellner, Chair