

I want to express my support for the concept of bolstering the State's Public Health system. In the past year, we have seen two general emergencies that have required a vigorous response from Public Health Departments: the wild fires and the pandemic. In Lincoln County, our department has barely been able to keep up with their response to these emergencies, and as a result, their ability to perform their usual duties and functions has been reduced to about zero. One area that I think needs urgent attention is a more effective means of communication of Public Health issues to the general public, detailing items like air quality reports, locations for obtaining vaccination, updates on Covid-19 risk level. Sort of a tripcheck for public health.

I would urge that when (not if) the State implements universal health care coverage for all of our citizens, that a strengthened and vigorous Public Health Department in each County or District be an important part of that program.

Thanks for your consideration,  
Jerry Robbins