RESOLUTION NO.: 2021-01
SUBJECT: Opposition to the Elimination of Local Control Contained in HB21-1115
EFFECTIVE DATE: February 24, 2021

RESOLUTION OF THE EL PASO COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH
OPPOSING THE ELIMINATION OF LOCAL CONTROL CONTAINED IN HB21-1115

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 25-1-508, C.R.S., the El Paso County Board of Health ("Board of Health") has the power and duty to develop and promote the public policies needed to secure the conditions necessary for a healthy community in El Paso County, Colorado; and

WHEREAS, in Section III of its 2020 Legislative Policy, adopted pursuant to Resolution No. 2019-05 on October 23, 2019, the Board of Health affirmed its support for local control and management of matters of local public health concern and took a position of opposition to any legislation that unnecessarily or adversely affects the Board of Health's ability to design and manage public health programs and services to meet local public health needs in El Paso County; and

WHEREAS, the General Assembly has declared via § 25-1-501, C.R.S that each community in Colorado should provide high-quality public health services regardless of its location; and that a strong public health infrastructure is a shared responsibility requiring a coordinated effort among state and local agencies to identify and provide leadership for the provision of essential public health services; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to § 25-1-508, C.R.S., the El Paso County Board of County Commissioners ("BOCC") has the exclusive power to appoint members to the Board of Health, subject to requirements that each board member be a resident of El Paso County and that no business or professional group or governmental entity shall constitute a majority of the Board of Health; and

WHEREAS, HB21-1115, currently being considered by the Colorado General Assembly in its 2021 legislative session, would amend § 25-1-508 to prohibit County Commissioners on the BOCC from serving concurrently on the Board of Health; and

WHEREAS, as local officials elected to represent the very constituencies served by local boards of health, county commissioners are uniquely poised to determine the needs of their communities and should not be hindered in their decisions to appoint board of health members deemed qualified to meet those needs; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Health directly serves the citizens of the most populous county in Colorado and objects to any state legislative measure which usurps existing local control of public health programs and services.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE EL PASO COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH:
Hereby opposes the current draft of HB21-1115 and urges state lawmakers to reject provisions of § 25-1-508, C.R.S., that prohibit local elected officials serving as Commissioners on the BOCC from serving concurrently on the Board of Health.

MOVED, SECONDED AND ADOPTED BY THE EL PASO COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH AT A REGULAR MEETING HELD ON FEBRUARY 24, 2021 IN COLORADO SPRINGS, COLORADO.

EL PASO COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

BY:

[Signature]

President

ATTEST BY:

[Signature]

Secretary