

12-18-17

Common Council  
City of Appleton  
100 N. Appleton St.  
Appleton, WI 54911

Dear Common Council Members:

As Co-Chairman of Weight of the Fox Valley (WOTFV), I am writing in support of the Health in All Policies ordinance for the City of Appleton. This ordinance provides a collaborative approach to improving the health of all people by incorporating health considerations into decision-making across various sectors and policy areas.

WOTFV is a community health initiative designed to address active lifestyles and healthy habits among Fox Valley residents to reach and maintain a healthy weight. Organizations from all sectors of the community participate to focus existing and new collaborative efforts on achieving this vision.

A core provision of the proposed ordinance results in an approach to address the social determinants of health that are the key drivers of health outcomes and health inequities. The social determinants (neighborhood and physical environment, education, food access, community support and engagement, economic stability, the health care system) approach matches WOTFV's road forward as we discover and address why some groups within our community have poor health outcomes, while others do well.

Understanding how the social determinants influence health is important. Their contributions to premature death include: Behavioral patterns (40%), genetics (30%), social circumstances (15%), health care (10%), and environmental exposures (5%). Policies may especially impact behavioral patterns (e.g. safety belt usage, tobacco use), social circumstances, and environmental exposures (e.g. lead paint, physical activity outlets).

The added value of passing this ordinance results in sending a clear message to partner stakeholders that their input and experience is valued in the decision making process. Additionally, an important framework is developed to address health disparities at the systems, policy, and structural levels leading to better health outcomes. This may result in enhancing the productivity of the

workforce, boosting the local economy, reducing health expenditures, and most importantly, improving people's lives.

Thank you for your consideration and leadership on this important matter.

Sincerely yours,

Thomas W Zoch MD  
Co-Chairman, Weight of the Fox Valley