



November 3, 2020

VIA EMAIL ONLY

Memorandum

TO: Spokane Regional Health District Administrator and Board Members:
Spokane Regional Health District Administrator Amelia Clark, Mayor Ben Wick, Commissioner Mary Kuney, Commissioner Josh Kerns, Councilmember Breean Beggs, Councilmember Betsy Wilkerson, Councilmember Linda Thompson, Mayor Kevin Freeman, Board Member Andrea Frostad, and Board Member Jason Kinley

FROM: PROTEC17 Executive Director Karen Estevenin
PROTEC17 Union Representative Suzie Saunders
WSNA Executive Director Sally Watkins
WSNA Nurse Representative Jaclyn Perkins

RE: Dr. Lutz's Resignation

At PROTEC17 and the Washington State Nurses Association, we proudly represent the vast majority of workers employed by the Spokane Regional Health District. Together, our members serve in many capacities on the front lines of our region's response to the COVID-19 pandemic, including nurses, epidemiologists, contact tracers, environmental health specialists, and community health workers. As an orchestrated team, they provide safety, protection, education and health care to those in need in our Spokane community. The direct guidance and ability to work in partnership with Dr. Bob Lutz has created a collaborative and effective team of hard-working staff. Our members love what they do; they put their heart and soul into their work. They have the upmost respect for Dr. Lutz.

On Thursday evening, Oct. 29, 2020, our members felt blindsided by the surprise announcement of Dr. Lutz's departure from the Spokane Regional Health District. They are shocked, confused and saddened by this news. Dr. Lutz was a well-respected leader at SRHD and has been a shining light for SRHD staff during this extremely difficult time for public health workers.

Members working under his leadership have witnessed his integrity, intelligence, and concern for the well-being of others. He knows all the staff by name and consistently goes

out of his way to make sure staff have the tools and support necessary to perform their jobs with confidence.

We do not understand the Board's decision to ask for Dr. Lutz's resignation and feel transparency for this significant decision is of utmost importance. We are calling for a public meeting where we can all hear the facts supporting this shocking action so that we can better understand why this happened and determine for ourselves whether the action was warranted.

We need a unified leadership team at SRHD, especially going into the winter months when the COVID-19 crisis is expected to become much worse. Dr. Lutz greatly contributes to that unified team, and we stand behind his excellent leadership. We urge the Spokane Regional Health District Administrator, Amelia Clark, and the Board of Health to reconsider their decision, and carefully evaluate the far-reaching repercussions of forcing Dr. Lutz out of his position. Public health staff need strong leadership right now, and we firmly believe we have that in Dr. Lutz.

In community, and on behalf of hundreds of Spokane Health District members,



Karen Estevenin, Executive Director
PROTEC17

11-3-20



Suzie Saunders, Union Representative
PROTEC17

11-3-20



Sally Watkins, PhD, RN, Executive Director
Washington State Nurses Association

11-3-20



Jaclyn Perkins, BSN, RN, Union Representative
Washington State Nurses Association

11-2-20

cc: Amelia Clark, Spokane Regional Health District Administrator
Mayor Nadine Woodward City of Spokane