

May 18, 2020

Honorable Members  
Board of Supervisors  
County of Mendocino  
Ukiah, California

Dear Honorable Members,

I am writing to you in support of your appointment of Dr. Joseph Iser to the position of County Health Officer for the County of Mendocino. I have had the pleasure of working with Dr. Iser during the many years when he and I were both county health officers. He is an extremely knowledgeable and experienced public health professional who is well prepared to lead the County through the very difficult process of response to and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

I have been working as a consultant to the County for the past nine months, focusing on the revitalization of the Public Health Division and the recruitment of a new Public Health Director and the County's first full time County Health Officer. It has been a great pleasure to get to know the County and the community during this time. During this time, I have seen the tremendous potential for partnership and cross-sector collaboration that exists in Mendocino to the benefit of health of all its residents and visitors.

During my 10 years as Public Health Officer of Napa County and my four plus years as State Health Officer, I have had the pleasure of working with several of Mendocino County's Health Officers. They have been, without exception, excellent physician leaders. Building on what they have developed, I believe that the County has grown and diversified to the point that it both needs and deserves a fulltime health officer. A fulltime health officer will be better able to both provide leadership to the medical community and to build the cross-sector relationships that address the complex issues challenging health in Mendocino County. I believe that Dr. Iser can provide that leadership.

Sincerely,

**Karen Lee Smith**

Karen L Smith, M.D., M.P.H.  
Health Innovation Strategies Consultant  
Kl.smith.md@gmail.com