



UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY

**Kentucky School
of Public Health**

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11 December 2003

Thomas Samuel
Interim Director
University of Kentucky
School of Public Health

Dear Dr. Samuel:

The faculty of the Division of Epidemiology unanimously supports the establishment of a separate and distinct College of Public Health at the University of Kentucky. Each of us believes public health to be our academic home, although most of us collaborate regularly with colleagues from other colleges within the University. We believe that the mission of the University, in general, and the advancement of public health, more specifically, would be best served by a free-standing College of Public Health at the University of Kentucky.

Kentucky has distinct health-related problems, with rates of obesity, smoking, cardiovascular disease, diabetes, and lung cancer among the highest in the country. Reducing these risk factors involves hard choices in public policy and difficult changes in lifestyle. A distinct College of Public Health at the University of Kentucky would provide the academic home for colleagues who share the passion of training new public health professionals and improving public health in the state of Kentucky. The brightest and most capable minds across the state should be able to obtain masters and doctoral levels of training within the Commonwealth, rather than being forced to emigrate elsewhere for their studies and potentially remain there to practice.

It is imperative that the School of Public Health become a free-standing and distinct College of Public Health at the University of Kentucky. This action is absolutely critical to achieve accreditation from the Council on Education in Public Health. It is particularly important for the faculty of epidemiology, whose colleagues across the country typically reside in colleges of public health. Collaboration among members of the epidemiology faculty, and with other faculty in biostatistics, health behavior, health services management, and environmental health will be facilitated by a distinct organizational entity that is independent from, but an equal partner with, the College of Medicine. Such a move should reap substantial benefits to the University of Kentucky and to the health of the public throughout the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

This letter indicates a strong and passionate vote of endorsement.

Sincerely yours,



Thomas Tucker, PhD MPH



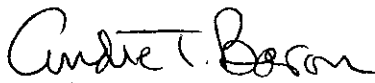
Steven Fleming, PhD



Claudia Hopenhayn, PhD, MPH



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Suzanne Tyas, PhD



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Robert McKnight, ScD, MPH



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10 December 2003

Thomas Samuel
Interim Dean
University of Kentucky
School of Public Health

Dear Tom:

I want to convey my deepest and heartfelt support for the establishment of a freestanding college of Public Health at the University of Kentucky. As a member of both the Epidemiology and Health Services Management faculty, I sincerely feel that public health is my academic home. This conviction is, in no small part, due to my PhD training at the University of Michigan School of Public Health. In short, I believe that my academic interests (teaching, research, and service) would be best served by an affiliation with a free-standing College of Public Health.

Clearly, public health should be a statewide priority, in terms of research, service, and the training of public health professionals. Kentucky has some of the highest rates of obesity, diabetes, smoking and lung cancer in the country, and the potential to significantly reduce some of these risk factors through behavioral changes, at the individual level, and public policy, at the statewide level. A distinct College of Public Health at the University of Kentucky could provide the necessary focus, collaboration, momentum, and initiative, not to mention increased inflow of research dollars, to have a significant and long term impact on the people of this fine state.

It is absolutely critical that the School of Public Health become a free-standing and distinct College of Public Health at the University of Kentucky. This action is necessary to achieve accreditation from the public health accreditation body (CEPH). It is also critical to achieve functional and operational independence from the College of Medicine. Public health at the University of Kentucky must enjoy the privilege and responsibility of distinct budget lines and leadership, and must participate as equal partners with the Colleges of Medicine and Nursing if it is ever to meet reach the high and admirable goals of having a significant impact on the people of Kentucky.

Please consider this letter as evidence of the highest level of support.

Sincerely yours,

Steven T. Fleming, Ph.D.
Associate Professor
Divisions of Epidemiology and Health Services Management