
Congressional Record



United States
of America

**CELEBRATING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF
THE ST. CLAIR COUNTY HEALTH
DEPARTMENT**

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 24, 2011

Mr. COSTELLO. Mister Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the 25th Anniversary of the St. Clair County, Illinois, Health Department.

By 1985, there was gathering evidence of the need for a public health department to serve the residents of St. Clair County. Since the 1930's there had been a health department, the East Side Health District, to serve the residents of East St. Louis and several surrounding communities but public health care services did not exist for residents outside the East Side Health District service area.

As Chairman of the St. Clair County Board at the time, I was very concerned that county residents did not have access to public health services. As a result, I appointed a citizens committee, made up of concerned citizens and health care professionals, to determine if there was, indeed, a need for a county-wide public health department.

After many meetings and input from the public, in October of 1985, I presented a resolution to the St. Clair County Board that was approved, creating the St. Clair County Health Department. I am very proud to have played a role in establishing the St. Clair County Health Department.

The new Board of Health met to elect officers in January, 1986, and recruited Kevin Hutchinson to serve as the Executive Director, a post he has held to this day. Funding for the Health Department came from the existing tuberculosis tax, which was converted to a public health tax.

The new Health Department focused on the most critical priorities initially, targeting issues such as communicable disease prevention, food safety and maternal and child health. Today, the Health Department is organized into four divisions, Administration, Health Protection, Community Health and Personal Health.

Evidence of the need for this department can be found in its growth and expansion during the past 25 years. From just over 20 employees and a budget of under \$500,000, the department has grown to 70 employees and a budget exceeding \$6 million. While the need is great, the dedicated professionals of the St. Clair County Health Department continue to meet that need by providing excellent health care, prevention services and educational outreach to the communities and residents of St. Clair County.

Mister Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the board of directors, administration and employees of the St. Clair County Health Department, as well as the members of the St. Clair County Board, on their 25th Anniversary, and wishing them the very best for many more years of continued service to the people of St. Clair County, Illinois.
