

February 3, 2025

Dr. Jessica Fish and Dr. Courtney Cuthbertson
Department of Human Development and Family Studies
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Dear Drs. Fish and Cuthbertson,

Thank you for sharing the draft of your proposal, *“Place, People, and Promotion: Improving Youth Behavioral Health and Resilience in Context.”* I reviewed the NIMSS database and did not find any existing Multistate committee that focuses on adolescent behavioral health and resilience across contexts, with an emphasis on rural communities. Your vision to build a collaborative, cross-regional network in the North Central region—and potentially beyond—addresses an unmet need with potential for meaningful impact.

I am pleased to support your proposal and wish you good luck in establishing this new committee. If the Office of Research can be of assistance, do not hesitate to reach out. Chris Lugardo works directly with Multistate Hatch projects and may serve as a good contact.

Sincerely,



Dr. Rodney W. Johnson
Associate Dean for Research
Director, Illinois Agricultural Experiment Station