Mitchell E. Daniels, Jr., Governor
James W. Payne, Director

Indiana Department of Child Services
Room E306 – MS47
302 W. Washington Street
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-2738

317-234-KIDS
FAX: 317-232-4497

www.in.gov/dcs

Child Support Hotline: 800-840-8757
Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline: 800-800-5556

Wade Clapp, M.D
IUPUI

Re: Dr. Roberta Hibbard

Dear Dr. Clapp:

Please let this serve as my personal and professional support for the Submission of the name of Roberta Hibbard, M.D. for the Chancellor's Faculty Award for Excellence in Civic Engagement. I have worked with and admired Robyn for over 20 years and is a personal privilege to write in support of this award. I have previously served as the Judge in the Juvenile Court in Marion County for 20 years and currently serve the Governor and the children and families in Indiana as the Director of the Department of Child services. In both of those roles I have had the opportunity to work closely with Robyn on many activities and on any number of issues. I will relate only a few of those for the purpose of supporting this Award.

I recall several hearings involving complex legal issues involving serious health and life endangering issues regarding children. Her testimony was critical by explaining the nature and complexity of issues about abuse and neglect with her not only professional medical expertise but in a way which was clear and unmistakable to a laymen. It is that ability- to take complex issues and address them simply but clearly- that makes her a remarkable participant in issue involving the community.

It was her insight and concern along with her professional interest that cause her to single-handedly create a Hospital Liaison group almost 25 years ago. She discovered that there was a weakness in the communication between the hospital,/medical community and the child serving community- child protective services, education, etc- and that failure was not serving children well and in fact in some cases contributing to further injury. With her expertise, creditability, charm and tenacity, she got all of us meeting together to discuss issues, solve problems and the share the credit. She personally was never interested nor accepting of credit- she only cares about getting things done.

During my 20 years as Juvenile Judge, she stands out as the medical professional most dedicated to working with the "system", not critical or attacking, but with a hope and opportunity to do great work. It was only with her personality and grit that Indianapolis, Marion county, and indeed the whole state was able to resolve many of the issues that faced the child caring system and move forward.

On a more personal and more direct note recently, I have turned to her on behalf of children in our state and this administration to continue to improve the safety net for children. I recall on any number of occasions calling her, early in the morning, late at night and even in her beloved retreat out West to seek her counsel and advise to resolve issues of child depth, training for emergency room doctors and other weighty and important issues. She is always available , always professional and always "right on" in her advise and opinions.

I cannot think of a more deserving person that Dr. Roberta Hibbard of this Award. Her role in our community, impact on a complex system and respect earned and deserved is in my opinion, unprecedented. I urge and ask in the most passionate terms that she be given this prestigious Award. Thank you for the opportunity to support the nomination of some on I admire and respect so much.

Very truly,

James W. Payne