INDIANA UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF PEDIATRICS
School of Medicine

January 13, 2011

RE: Nomination of Roberta A. Hibbard, MD for the Chancellor's Faculty Award for Civic Engagement

Dear Committee Members,

It is my very great pleasure to write a letter of nomination for Roberta A. Hibbard, MD, for the 2011 Chancellor's Faculty Award for Civic Engagement. Dr. Hibbard is a Professor of Pediatrics and has been on faculty at IUPUI since 1985. She has devoted her life to the advocacy of abused and neglected children through research, teaching, civic engagement and service. Her dedication has led to exceptional accomplishments and the betterment of the lives of children throughout the State of Indiana.

In 1985, Dr. Hibbard founded The Child Protection Program. Since then, she has developed and grown The Child Protection Program at Indiana University Medical Center to include multi-disciplinary clinical services and professional education to improve the evaluation and care of maltreated children in Indiana. Dr. Hibbard has developed extensive programs based on a child's developmental needs, an understanding of the agencies involved, and medical knowledge. These programs provide education, communication and coordination of services for the evaluation of child maltreatment. She has been acknowledged as the driving force that brings together the skills, resources, knowledge and expertise to address the issues at local, state and national levels.

As an expert in the area of child abuse treatment, policies and systems, she is often consulted and quoted by media and governmental resources. Dr. Hibbard's research, her national reputation, her dedication to education and her work with agencies, community organizations, government departments and providers definitely demonstrates IUPUI's mission "to advance the State of Indiana and the intellectual growth of its citizens to the highest levels nationally and internationally through research and creative activity, teaching and learning, and civic engagement."

Dr. Hibbard's research identified system inadequacies that had a negative impact on the care and protection of abused or neglected children in the State of Indiana. Her unyielding dedication to making changes in the system, have led to new processes and innovative treatments for Indiana's at-risk youth. For instance, her research, teaching, and collaborative approach led to a policy change that discontinued the practice of withholding counseling for a child until after a trial had taken place. Over a three year period she built this consensus by engaging almost 1,500 professionals in the process. Other work and research related to this

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became the foundation for the Child Advocacy Center model for child abuse investigations that is now considered a best practice.

As part of the Child Protection Program, Dr. Hibbard started the Statewide Educational Program on Child Sexual Abuse. For the first time, this educational program brought together Indiana professionals dealing with child abuse from CPS, law enforcement, teachers, health care providers, judges, attorneys, and therapists to discuss how to communicate and collaborate in their various roles. This educational program resulted in the formation of the Child Sexual Abuse Clinic (now called the Pediatric Center of Hope - PCOH) founded to fill a much needed service by providing expertise in the area of child abuse and neglect. The Pediatric Center of Hope now has four physicians, seven nurses and five social workers to serve over 1700 victims annually from across the state with medical examinations, crisis counseling services and consultation to CPS, law enforcement and attorneys.

Dr. Hibbard also saw a need for a community coordination forum to help hospitals dealing with child abuse. She founded the Liaison Child Abuse Forum to solve community problems in the identification, evaluation and handling of child abuse cases. The Liaison Child Abuse Forum now also focuses on school systems.

Also under Dr. Hibbard's direction the Child Abuse Consultation Team and Pediatric Evaluation and Diagnostic Services (PEDS) were developed along with a new Child Abuse Pediatrics Fellowship which graduated its first fellow in 2010. The consultation team and evaluation service help determine if a child's condition is due to maltreatment, a medical condition or accident. In 2010 the team consulted on over 800 possible physical abuse and neglect cases and served 1,700 suspected child sexual abuse victims. Collectively, the physicians spent almost 400 hours testifying in juvenile and criminal courts across the state during that one year.

In addition to her research, teaching initiatives, development of services and collaborations with CPS, law enforcement, judges, educators and numerous community providers, Dr. Hibbard has been very involved in civic engagement on community committees and task forces including several Governors' and Mayors' commissions, the Marion County Child Protection Team and others.

Dr. Hibbard has had an illustrious career in which she has and continues to have a tremendous impact on the safety and welfare of the children of Indiana. She has been involved in so many successful initiatives that have resulted in new laws and policy changes, that it would be impossible to list them all in this letter. However, to name a few, Dr. Hibbard successfully advocated at the statehouse for legislation regarding child fatality teams and provided technical assistance to other Indiana communities developing similar teams. She also worked with the Child Fatality Review Team whose findings were instrumental in identifying the problem of unsafe infant sleep practices in Indiana. This resulted in the Indiana Safe Sleep Campaign which was awarded a grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to research and promote safe sleep education and reduce infant fatalities.

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In closing, Dr. Hibbard is a remarkable leader, mentor, role model and educator. She embodies the spirit of IUPI in truly making an impact in the areas of research, teaching and service. She has had a tremendous impact on the health and well being of the children of Indiana and the ability of Indiana educators, service providers, agencies and government departments to better understand and better meet the needs of at-risk youth. It is my great honor and privilege to nominate her for this much deserved award. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

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