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Board of Directors NHAFP

Dear Members of the Board,

I would like to take the time to express my full support in the nomination of Gerard Hevern as the 2016 New Hampshire Family Physician of the Year.

I have worked with Gerry for the past 6 years in my role as a Family Nurse Practitioner. In that time I have had the pleasure to witness things that have become a rarity in the current health care setting.

Gerry has cared for many of his patients for more than 30 years, and the generations of families he sees is quite remarkable. He is loved by his patients, they trust his knowledge, feel secure in his care, are put at ease with his kindness and compassion, they have built solid relationships fostered by mutual respect and mutual health care goals. He is a provider who takes the time to truly listen; he gets to know his patients, not just medically, but strives to have an understanding of their psychosocial, spiritual, cultural, and family backgrounds and needs. Each patient that leaves this office feels that Gerry has truly listened to him/her, validated their concerns, provided an exceptional assessment, and clearly discussed options for care and the implementation of an individualized treatment plan. The patients know that together they are working toward meeting their needs in a way that values the individual, and gives them ownership of their health care choices.

I have seen Gerry spend numerous hours on the phone with specialists and insurance companies, fighting for the best possible health care for his patients. It is safe to say that he advocates for his patients in a way that few other providers do.

As an NP working closely with Gerry I find him to always be open to discussion, whether for a consult related to a patient in our office, or discussion of new treatment options or strategies in medicine, he is always welcoming. He takes the time to review items thoroughly, and discuss what his understanding or beliefs about something may be. He welcomes questions at any time, and provides teaching opportunities at every turn. All one needs to do is ask, and he is there, to help, advise, guide, and support, all in an open manner, fostering further discussion and ultimately, improved patient care.

Whether it be in the office, in the community, supporting local events, rounding in the hospital, taking the time to participate in numerous medical forums, teaching, or lecturing, he is well thought of by his peers, his patients and the community he has cared for over so many years.

Somehow, with all of this, Gerry has found time for his other passions: his family, travel, spirituality, exercise, boating, gathering with friends, old and new, sports, taking quality time to recharge with his wife, children and grandchildren.

In closing, I fully support Gerry's nomination for the 2016 NH Family Physician of the year award, he truly embodies the high standards that the New Hampshire Academy of Family Physicians stands for, and will represent the NHAFP in that Manner.

Sincerely,

Leah M Cadegan Paquette, BC, MSN, APRN