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November 14, 2003

American Medical Women's Association  
801 N.Fairfax St., Suite 400  
Alexandria, VA 22314  
Attn.: Ms. Meghan Kissell

Dear Ms. Kissell:

It is my distinct pleasure to nominate Dr. Barbara Roberts as a Local Legend, to be honored as part of the Changing the Face of Medicine: Celebrating America's Women Physicians exhibit at the U.S. National Library of Medicine.

Dr. Roberts, an eminent cardiologist with a private practice, truly is a legend in Rhode Island. She was the first woman to be accepted into the Gorlin cardiology fellowship program at the Brigham and Women's Hospital, a Harvard University Medical School Teaching Hospital, the first woman adult cardiologist in Rhode Island, and has blazed many trails since. She is known as an astute clinician and a deeply caring healer. For these attributes, in 2000 she was named by the Rhode Island Medical Women's Association as "Physician of the Year," by Brown University School of Medicine as "Teacher of the Year," and in 2003 "Physician of the Year" by the Rhode Island Heart Association. She currently serves as the President of the Rhode Island Medical Women's Association, and has the support of its 250 member physicians for this special recognition. She has served as mentor and supported the careers of many of them during their medical training and residency.

Dr. Roberts is now a national and international pioneer in women's cardiovascular health, confronting the epidemic of cardiovascular disease in women. She has written that "Worldwide over eight million women die each year from heart disease or stroke, almost eighteen times the number who die of breast cancer and six times more than the number who die of HIV/AIDS." She is fighting to alert women to this alarming fact.

Specialized cardiac care for women was not available in Rhode Island when Dr. Roberts arrived here in 1977. Now she is director of the Women's Cardiac Center at The Miriam Hospital. The Women's Cardiac Center offers a comprehensive approach to heart health, with diagnostic and clinical services, access to surgery, angioplasty and stent, and rehabilitation and behavioral medicine services.

To address the international epidemic of heart disease in women, Dr. Roberts is actively involved in ProCOR, an organization committed to global cardiovascular health, and especially

women's heart health in the developing world. Her work with ProCOR is aimed at identifying tailored strategies to help women in different regions and cultures address risk factors such as sedentary lifestyle, smoking, obesity, hypertension and diabetes.

Finally, Dr. Roberts is the author of the new book, How to Keep from Breaking Your Heart: What Every Woman Needs to Know About Cardiovascular Disease, which is scheduled for release in January 2004.

As Dr. Roberts strives every day to get the word out about the importance to women of good cardiac health, I want to spread the word about the fine work she is doing. I heartily recommend Dr. Barbara Roberts for recognition by your organization.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "L. Chafee". The signature is written in a cursive style with a vertical line at the end.

Lincoln Chafee

LDC/ctt