

LEE TERRY
NEBRASKA, 2ND DISTRICT



AUG292003

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

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COMMERCE, TRADE AND
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ENVIRONMENT AND HAZARDOUS
MATERIALS

TELECOMMUNICATIONS
AND THE INTERNET

August 26, 2003

Local Legends Nominations c/o American Medical
Women's Association 801 North Fairfax Street,
Suite 400 Alexandria, VA 22314

RE: Nomination of Joann Schaefer, M.D.

Dear AMWA:

It is my pleasure to nominate Joann Schaefer, M.D., ABFP, for the American Medical Women's Association "Changing the Face of Medicine: Local Legends" award. As a well-rounded, active, and prominent family physician, Dr. Schaefer had demonstrated her abilities in three nomination categories, but she has most recently left her mark on and changed the face of medicine in Nebraska, the public health and/or public policy category.

On July 1, 2002, Dr. Schaefer was asked to serve as Deputy Chief Medical Officer for the Nebraska Health and Human Services System. It was agreed that this would be a 0.5 FTE position to allow her to continue her very active practice, including obstetrics, her tenured position as associate professor in Creighton University Medical Center's Department of Family Practice and her ongoing, nationally recognized efforts to curb domestic violence.

Dr. Schaefer was given two assignments as priorities, and both have been met, placing Nebraska as a leader in bioterrorism preparedness, which in turn translates to public health preparedness.

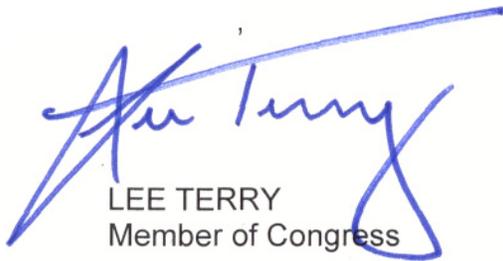
She was assigned smallpox preparedness planning, both pre-event and mass vaccination post event. Because of her skillful planning and preparations, Nebraska was the first state to be prepared and in a position to respond to the President's call to vaccinate public health and health care workers. In three short weeks the vaccination effort was completed, the first in the nation to have the right people vaccinated to respond to an intentional release of the deadly smallpox virus, and we have the highest per capita vaccinated.

Dr. Schaefer's second task was to prepare Nebraska to receive, secure, break down and dispense the Strategic National Stockpile. Her thorough preparations allowed Nebraska to be just the fifth state approved by the Centers for Disease Control to receive the SNS training package just one year after her appointment.

Her addition, although only part time, to the public health team of Nebraska's State Government has helped Nebraska assume a leadership role in preparedness to respond to any emergency, be it intentional or naturally occurring. She has truly changed the face of medicine in Nebraska and is the highest ranking female public health officer in Nebraska's history.

Thank you for your consideration of Dr. Joann Shaefer. If you require any additional information for the selection process, please do not hesitate to call.

Sincerely,



LEE TERRY
Member of Congress