



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Office of the Lieutenant Governor

Ralph S. Northam
Lieutenant Governor

(804) 786-2078
Fax: (804) 786-7514
TTY/TDD: 1-800-828-1120
EMAIL: ltgov@ltgov.virginia.gov

April 29, 2016

Re: AAMC OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD
LETTER OF SUPPORT

Dear Award Selection Committee Members,

When I served as a Virginia state senator, one of my proudest moments was passing legislation to prohibit smoking in restaurants. Last year, when I learned that my alma mater, Eastern Virginia Medical School, had won a \$430,000 grant from the Virginia Foundation for Healthy Youth to research e-cigarette use among teens and tweens, I was equally proud.

As both a public servant and pediatric neurologist, I have made children's health a priority. Eastern Virginia Medical School works equally diligently. EVMS is the lead partner of CINCH, the Consortium for Infant and Child Health, a regional coalition of community partners. Breastfeeding, childhood obesity, respiratory health and access to care are only four of the issues CINCH programs have successfully addressed. CINCH's "Breastfeeding Welcome Here" project has engaged more than 60 restaurants and retail establishments in southeastern Virginia. And CINCH's #757SmokeFreeRide campaign encourages adults to sign a pledge to not smoke in cars with children.

Another way EVMS keeps children safe has been adopted statewide. Grant-funded educational programs developed by EVMS pediatrics researchers — and proven successful by empirical evidence — are being used across Virginia to promote booster-seat and seat-belt use among children and to deter distracted driving among teens. Communities across the country also have taken advantage of these car-safety programs and materials.

EVMS' culture of community service has long attracted like-minded students and residents. In 2014, four pediatrics residents created a vegetable garden project for underserved children, some of whom had never seen a whole cucumber or carrot. After the garden's second year in 2015, the residents turned it into the children's book, "Does Broccoli Grow on Trees?"

My faculty appointment at EVMS, which continues even as I serve as Virginia's lieutenant governor, has kept me in touch with the institution's commitment to Hampton Roads and Virginia. I am proud to endorse EVMS for the Spencer Foreman Award for Outstanding Community Service.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ralph S. Northam".

Ralph S. Northam, MD
Lieutenant Governor, Commonwealth of Virginia
EVMS Class of 1984