



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT

825 5TH STREET, ROOM 111
EUREKA, CALIFORNIA 95501 PHONE: (707) 476-2390

June 28, 2022

California Medical Association
1201 K Street, Suite #800
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Support for the Nomination of Dr. Donald Baird for the Frederick
K.M. Plessner Memorial Award 2022

Dear Sirs:

On behalf of the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors, I am writing in full support of the nomination of Dr. Donald Baird for the prestigious Frederick K.M. Plessner Memorial Award for 2022.

During Dr. Baird's tenure with the Department of Health & Human Services, he worked closely with Public Health staff to obtain accreditation by the National Public Health Accreditation Board in 2016, making Humboldt the first California county of its size to achieve this status.

Dr. Baird, along with Public Health's team of professionals and the Humboldt-Del Norte County Medical Society, participated in the establishment of the Rx Safe Humboldt Coalition, a multi-disciplinary team made up of the Coroner's Office, Partnership HealthPlan of California, the Humboldt Independent Practice Association, Aegis and representatives from local clinics, pharmacies and hospitals to address opioid addiction locally. Dr. Baird also worked with the Department of Health and Human Services, and the Communicable Disease team as it dealt with pandemic flu, measles, mumps, chickenpox, pertussis, tuberculosis, norovirus, E.coli, salmonella and shigella, as well as botulism, leprosy and an ongoing outbreak of STDs.

Dr. Baird worked tirelessly alongside the Department of Health and Human Services staff and community partners taking an active role in disaster preparations for the county, including providing mutual aid to other counties during devastating fires and most recently triaging patients to determine who couldn't go without power during the countywide PG&E planned power outages.

During his time as the Public Health Officer in Humboldt County, Dr. Baird gained the reputation as a team player and someone who truly cares about the health of his community. I can think of no one more deserving of this award.

Sincerely,

Virginia Bass, Chair
Humboldt County Board of Supervisors

VB:kh