



Accept No Boundaries

January 9, 2008

Dear Supporter,

I write to express my heartfelt support for Mary Schneider's 50th District candidacy for the Illinois State House of Representatives. I am confident that Mary will be a forceful advocate for the health of children and families in Illinois.

Like so many people, I came to know Mary through her tireless efforts to bring about new therapies for children with disabling brain disorders. Mary's journey began with her son's cerebral palsy diagnosis back in 2005, but accelerated into a "full-blown crusade" when his condition improved dramatically after an infusion of his own cord blood stem cells. Even after healing her son, and at great personal sacrifice, Mary continues to push our policymakers to make true brain repair therapies safe and available to all children.

This past year, Mary advised State Senator William Haine on the drafting of legislation to protect children and families through standardized cord blood banking procedures. She personally rallied support for this bill, which passed with strong bipartisan majorities in June 2007. Her efforts included testifying three times before legislative committees, educating Republican and Democratic members on the benefits of cord blood banking and appearing on several media programs.

Her nationally-recognized stem cell advocacy extends not only to Illinois – where Governor Rod Blagojevich invited her to participate in the awarding of \$1.65 million in stem cell grants at the University of Illinois-Chicago – but also to Washington, D.C. In 2006 and 2007 she assisted U.S. Senator Barack Obama in drafting his official stem cell position statement. She also testified before a Senate subcommittee debating bioethics, and made an emotional appeal to President Bush minutes before his veto of landmark stem cell legislation.

Mary understands that families with special-needs desperately need new treatments and cures so that their children may enjoy a life-time of possibilities. I marvel at the prospect of Mary bringing her message of a better life for families in Illinois, and am honored to lend my support and my name to her effort.

I wish Mary and her supporters a successful campaign.

With kindest regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Shane G. Smith".

Shane G. Smith, Ph.D.

Science Director*

Children's Neurobiological Solutions Foundation*

*Title and Affiliation for Identification Purposes Only