This letter is in support of Dr. Susan L. Beck, D.O., Physician and Surgeon, who is being nominated for the 2015 Women of Influence Award. As one of Dr. Beck's patients I support her nomination enthusiastically.

I will respond to three of the major points posed in the nomination criteria: success in her field, role model, and lasting impact on the community.

Dr. Susan Beck is extremely competent and caring as a physician and surgeon. She is one of the most competent physicians I have encountered during my life, personally as a patient, and professionally during my nursing career as charge nurse in Intensive Care, senior nursing educator, and administrator. That is to say that Dr. Beck is extremely bright, insightful, cordial, courteous, and responsible. She works whole-heartedly to meet the physical, emotional, and teaching needs of her patients.

Success in her field: Dr Beck's first words to me were, "Lou, I am going to take good care of you." After seven weeks of being treated for a breast infection, I asked to see a breast specialist. She turned out to be Dr. Beck, who cleared her Friday afternoon schedule to see me. Her commanding approach to care--strong, collaborative, gentle--was immediately reassuring.

She took core biopsies immediately and pushed the pathologist to have a report ready on Monday. Throughout the weekend, Dr. Beck scheduled my lab work and followed my condition closely, regularly keeping me appraised.

As promised, she phoned on Monday with the pathology report, which was Inflammatory Breast Cancer. Dr. Beck immediately set a plan in motion and together we began the long journey toward health. I will forever thank God for Dr. Susan Beck, a brilliant, caring physician whose wisdom, experience and kindness created confidence and saved my life.

Role model for the next generation of experts in the field of breast cancer: Dr. Beck approaches care by attending to her patient's physical needs with acumen and precision, she does not stop there, she is interested in "our" emotional and spiritual health as well. She speaks sympathizing words as she interacts on a personal level and shows genuine interest in our lives, our concerns, support networks, hobbies, and accomplishments. She, like a wise friend, inquires about our experiences with care, with mastectomy/prosthetic fittings, and issues of living through treatment. She encourages us by sharing her wisdom and research based knowledge, she also shares her own love of hobbies and family.

Lasting impact: Dr. Beck makes a difference as she presents the annual Breast Cancer Symposium to educate medical staff as well as patients about the most current treatment modalities from breast cancer research. She shares with us her care and concern for people with cancer in under and undeveloped countries. She makes a difference through her missions of mercy to attend the health care needs of people in places like India, and she continually expands her capacity to do good as she works toward a Master's degree in Public Health. Dr. Beck's positive influence reaches a wide sphere.

Dr Beck is very deserving of the Women of Influence Award. She will represent you with grace and excellence with her patients, and while educating medical students, collaborating in the in the board room, interacting in the community, and addressing issues of cancer diagnosis and treatment in the world at large.

Sincerely, Sylvia Lou Blanchfield, PhD, MSN, BSN

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