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Dear AAHB Board of Directors,

It is with a profound sense of gratitude that I write to inform you of my decision to retire from my position as the Executive Director of the American Academy of Health Behavior, an organization that has been an integral part of my life since its inception.

I had the privilege of attending the very first AAHB Scientific Meeting in Santa Fe, New Mexico in 2000 as a poster presenter with Dr. Molly Laflin. Additionally, I have worked with 15 Presidents and the founder of the Academy, Dr. Elbert Glover, whose vision and foresight laid the foundation for the Academy's success. I can confidently say that these years have been among the most rewarding and fulfilling of my career.

I want to extend my appreciation to all of the volunteers and others who have worked tirelessly to make the Academy's vision a reality. Their dedication has been vital to our success. Together, we have witnessed the evolution of the American Academy of Health Behavior from its early days into the prominent and respected organization it is today.

The opportunity to collaborate with Presidents and Board of Directors, each bringing unique perspectives and innovative ideas, has been a source of constant inspiration. The Board's dedication to advancing health behavior research and commitment to excellence has been instrumental in shaping the Academy's mission and achievements. The American Academy of Health Behavior has continued to be a "research home" for health behavior scholars, promoting diversity and excellence in research to improve the public's health.

As I reflect on this remarkable journey, I believe it is time for me to explore additional personal growth and quality time with family and friends. I am confident that the Academy is in a strong position to continue its mission under the capable leadership of the Board - the driving force behind our accomplishments.

During the transition period, I am committed to ensuring a smooth handover of responsibilities and to supporting my successor in any way necessary. I will work closely with the Board to provide guidance and assistance during this time of change.

My last day as Executive Director will be June 30, 2024. Until then, I remain fully committed to fulfilling my duties and ensuring a seamless transition.

Thank you once again for the incredible journey and the honor of working with such remarkable individuals.

Sincerely,

Joanne Sommers

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AAHB Executive Director