

To the Editor:

Chris Gaal has worked hard to ensure that our local court system provides fair and equal justice, while also pioneering progressive new ideas to meet the difficult challenges facing our community. As a retired nurse, I am particularly appreciative of one such accomplishment - the Nurse Family Partnership program. Gaal worked with IU Community Health and other stakeholders to bring that program to our community. Nurse Family Partnership pairs a first time mother living in poverty with a free home-visiting nurse from pregnancy through the first two years of a child's life.

At the recent Grand Opening Celebration, Gaal spoke and described how this program results in a broad range of benefits – including health, economic stability, and public safety impacts. These benefits last well into later years of life and positively influence the child, the mother, and the whole community. This is yet another example of the kind of forward-thinking prevention-based community initiative at which Gaal has excelled over the years. Gaal understands how a creative focus on problems-solving courts and community-based resources can help reduce recidivism, reduce costs for taxpayers, and increase public safety. Gaal deserves our vote for Judge in Seat 2.

Beth Hollingsworth

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