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DR. GREGORY FERRARO STEPS DOWN AS CHRB CHAIR

SACRAMENTO, CA – California Horse Racing Board Chair, Dr. Gregory L. Ferraro, has announced he will be stepping away from his duties as chairman, having fulfilled his commitment to lead the CHRB through the animal welfare crisis experienced in 2019. Dr. Ferraro's term will expire in January and while he remains committed to the mission of the CHRB and willing to serve on the board, he believes the role of chair should pass to a board member with vision and expertise best suited for the future of horse racing. Dr. Ferraro has made a lasting impact on California horse racing as a practicing veterinarian, equine surgeon, and a medical executive, spearheading safety initiatives over the past seven years for CHRB. His leadership and focus on animal welfare not only strengthened the state's racing industry, but his direction and advocacy helped make California a national and global leader in equine safety. Since Dr. Ferraro joined the Board, equine fatalities at CHRB-regulated facilities have declined by 66 percent, bringing California's fatalities-per-start ratio to among the lowest in the nation.

A San Francisco native, Dr. Ferraro, is a well-known surgeon and Thoroughbred racehorse specialist. He earned his Doctor of Veterinary Medicine from University of California, Davis, and began his career as a working veterinarian and surgeon on the tracks in Southern California. He later served as Director of the Center of Equine Health at UC Davis where his research efforts placed animal welfare at the forefront of equine medicine. Dr. Ferraro has served as CHRB chair since 2019, guiding the Board and the state toward significant advances in equine-safety policy. Under his direction, the CHRB helped eliminate permissive medications, reduce equine fatalities, and ensure decisions consistently centered on what was best for the horse.

His accomplishments during his tenure are extensive, and his time and dedication as CHRB Chair are appreciated. "I cannot begin to express my gratitude for Dr. Ferraro's tenure as Chair of the CHRB. His knowledge, good humor, equanimity, and dedication to animal welfare were exactly what the CHRB needed over the last 7 years. Not only has he made my job easier, but he has been instrumental in making horse racing safer in California, leading what is now a global movement in racing safety and equine welfare" said CHRB Executive Director Scott Chaney.

Some of Dr. Ferraro's achievements include:

- Appointed by Governor Newsom to the CHRB in 2019 when he was immediately elected by the Board as Chair.
- Credited as one of the earliest to bring human-style arthroscopic surgical techniques to

equine veterinary practice.
- Designed and developed horse ambulances that are used on North American tracks.
- Co-developed the Kimsey splint to stabilize and support equine leg injuries.
- Co-founded the Southern California Equine Foundation in 1976.
- Served as Director of the Center of Equine Health at UC Davis 1997-2011.
- Instrumental in hiring Dr. Jeff Blea as Equine Medical Director in 2020.
- Supported the creation of the Chief Official Veterinarian role for CHRB in 2021.
- Named Laffit Pincay Jr. Award Recipient in 2021.
- Led the CHRB in the passage of over 50 racing safety-related regulations.

At the November 18 Board Meeting, Dr. Ferraro nominated Peter Stern to serve as Chair of the California Horse Racing Board. Following a vote of the Board, Mr. Stern was elected Chair. Mr. Stern was appointed to the CHRB by Governor Gavin Newsom in 2025 and brings significant executive, technology, and governance experience to the Board's leadership.

The California Horse Racing Board (CHRB) was established by the California Legislature in 1933. The CHRB has regulatory authority over horse racing and pari-mutuel wagering at licensed racetracks throughout California. As noted in the CHRB's mission statement, a key objective of the CHRB is to ensure the integrity, viability, and safety of the California horse racing industry.

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