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**First primary challenger in Virginia’s 7th Congressional district exits race, backs
Abigail Spanberger**

GLEN ALLEN, VA – Dr. Kim Gower, candidate for the 2018 Democratic nomination for the U.S. House of Representatives in Virginia’s 7th District, has ended her campaign and publicly announced her support for Abigail Spanberger’s candidacy.

“When I entered the race, my primary objective was to bring the best possible representation to our community,” said Gower. “Now that Abigail has entered the race, I am confident that this will be accomplished. Abigail brings critical experience and the necessary knowledge, skills, and dedication to her candidacy, and I fully believe she is ready to work with people in this community to solve the challenges folks in Virginia’s 7th District will face in the coming years.”

Throughout her campaign, Gower engaged with voters across the district. She has also pledged her support to the House of Delegates candidates running in 2017. Gower will continue to work for those campaigns and serve on several committees, focusing on education, voter information and involvement, and social justice.

Gower is not ruling out future political runs, but at this time, she is confident that Spanberger will be a representative who brings strength, intelligence, and transparency to people here in central Virginia, and to those across the country.

Spanberger is appreciative of Gower’s support. “It’s been wonderful getting to know Kim at events throughout our region over the last month. I appreciate the depth of conversation and the commitment she brought to her campaign. Her endorsement means a great deal to me personally and I look forward to our continued work together and friendship.”

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