

# SAMPLE ONLY

**DATE:**

**RE: [Respondent in court hearing, with A# if available]**

To Whom It May Concern:

I am a primary care pediatrician at the ABC and serve as a [faculty position] at DEF. I am certified by the American Board of Pediatrics and licensed to practice medicine by the Medical Board of [STATE]. My combined medical training and practice spans [# years] with [# years] in pediatric care. I am writing on behalf of [child's name] as [his] primary care pediatrician, to attest that [he] is the child of [caregiver name] and that separation of this family via the detention and/or deportation of [caregiver name] would be traumatic and detrimental to the health and wellbeing of [child's name].

[Child's name] is a [brief description of child, any diagnoses, treatment and prognosis].

His parent(s) have been bringing him to clinic appointments since [date]. [Caregiver name] has been a tremendous advocate for [child's] health, and will undoubtedly require as much assistance as possible to continue meeting the child's needs.

- *To the extent you are familiar, please describe patient's support network (e.g. who brings child to appointments, who assists with physical or emotional support, etc.)*
- *Please describe how you think the patient's condition would be affected if he/she is deported to [country] (or if he/she accompanies his/her deported family member to [country])*
- *Please describe how you think the patient's condition would be affected if he/she remains in the United States but is separated from the caregiver.*

Additionally, children whose parents are taken into custody and/or deported often experience mental and emotional health problems including sleeping and eating disturbances, anxiety, depression, poor school performance, and other types of distress. Forced separations due to immigration enforcement can also result in a child's household losing a working parent, which has been shown to threaten family housing and food stability. Such circumstances may cause significant trauma and stress, which are particularly toxic for young children. The more exposure to trauma, the higher the child's risk of developing serious heart and lung disorders, depression, hypertension and other chronic diseases in adulthood.

To ensure that [child's name] has the best health outcomes possible, it is imperative that [caregiver name] remain in the United States as his integral caretaker and part of [child's name] support network. I truly hope that you will take into consideration the best interests of this child in your decision-making process. Please contact me with any questions.

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Respectfully,

[Provider]

Suggested attachments or footnotes:

1. The Impact of Immigration Enforcement on Child Welfare. Cervantes & Lincroft. First Focus, 2010.
2. Facing Our Future: Children in the Aftermath of Immigration Enforcement. Chaudry, Ajay; Capps, Randy; Pedroza, Juan Manuel; Casteneda, Rosa Maria; Santos, Robert; Scott, Molly M. The Urban Institute 2010.
3. Falling Through the Cracks: The Impact of Immigration Enforcement on Children Caught Up in the Child Welfare System. Immigration Policy Center. First Impact. December 2012.