Dear Physician,

Thank you for agreeing to assist your patient and their family in detailing this child’s medical issues. If you are receiving this Introduction and template letter, then you have a patient who may be facing the removal, either themselves or of a primary caregiver, from the United States for immigration reasons.

The goal is a factual, unbiased and authoritative letter in support of the patient and their valued family member/ caregiver.

* Write about your individual patient and their family, not in generalities
* Write honestly and factually. Do not exaggerate or speculate.
* Use supporting documentation for your opinion and statements
  + For purposes of this letter “supporting documentation” simply means more detailed information that helps you to document, detail, explain or illustrate any aspect of the care of your patient beyond the name of the diagnosis
  + For example, you can quote from or attach visit notes, discharge summaries, medication and treatment lists etc. that illustrate the daily regimen, coordination of care or extent of care the child requires and/or is provided by the caregiver.

Because we understand that so many patients require your attention, we have designed a template letter to assist in writing this letter more efficiently for this patient. As you will see, some of the letter simply requires inserting names and factual information such a diagnoses, medication or duration of health need. Other portions require more thought and detailed writing. To assist in this effort, we have outlined key areas of health related information that, if you have knowledge of with regard to your patient, would assist greatly in demonstrating the health consequences the child would suffer from deportation of herself or her primary caregiver.

Because the basic activities of daily living for children and youth with special healthcare needs often require additional steps or accommodations and are layered and complex, simply writing out how the child is cared for medically each and every day can be very impactful for an immigration case as it emphasizes how the health of a child could be directly impacted by removal of the child or her/his caregiver from the U.S.

If you would like to read additional information and advice on writing such a letter in support of a patient and their primary caregiver, we suggest the following Immigration Health Toolkit from the AAP:

<https://www.aap.org/en-us/about-the-aap/Committees-Councils-Sections/Council-on-Community-Pediatrics/Pages/Immigrant-Child-Health-Toolkit.aspx>

Sincerely,