

### Sample/ Template Letter

*The following content is for informational purposes only and not for the purpose of providing legal advice.*

DATE

Dear Sir or Madam:

I am writing on behalf of -----, DOB-----. I am a board certified pediatrician serving as (insert title, ie, medical director, etc ). I have been practicing primary care pediatrics for the past -- years, serving a predominantly immigrant population.

I have been the primary care provider for -----, DOB-----, since (month, year). His/Her mother/father, (parent name), has been a reliable and consistent care provider for his/her child/ren. (parent name) brings the child/ren in for their routine preventive care and displays an appropriate level of concern regarding his/her/their care and well being.

It is well documented that 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 in family housing and food stability<sup>1</sup>.

In addition, the mere possibility of deportation can negatively impact the well-being of some immigrant children, whether or not they themselves or family members are undocumented. Mexican immigrant children specifically have shown emotional distress, fear, confusion and anxiety<sup>2</sup>.

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 further questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

-----, MD, FAAP

Title, etc

<sup>1</sup> [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. Accessed March 7 2013

<sup>2</sup> The Burden of Deportation on Children in Mexican Joanna Dreby Immigrant Families *Journal of Marriage and Family* 74 (August 2012): 829–845)

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[Clinic/doctor, address, phone, fax]

[Today's Date]

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is regarding our patient(s):

[Patient's Name] born on [Patient's DOB] at [The Hospital where the patient was born at], seen since [Patient's First Seen Date].

The (child/children) continue regular medical care with us; they are currently up to date with annual physicals as well as immunizations. (Patient's Name(s)) reside with (Patient's Name(s)) mother, [Mother's Name] and father, [Father's Name] at [Patient's Current Address]. (He/She/They) are well taken care by both parents. Please contact the number above for further concerns.

Sincerely,

Dr. [name]