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To Whom It May Concern:

I am a pediatrician who is caring for Yussuf Satar, a charming little boy who has faced multiple medical issues in his short life. He requires ongoing complex medical care to help him achieve goals which might be taken for granted in a healthy child.

Yussuf suffered significant birth trauma and was deprived of oxygen immediately prior to his birth. From the second that he was born, he required intensive care to restart his heart and to help him breathe. Over the first few weeks of life, Yussuf underwent treatment and investigations to ascertain the extent of his brain injury.

Yussuf has cerebral palsy. This means that he cannot control his muscles all the time, and that many of the muscles in his body are either too relaxed or too tense to allow him to sit, to hold a toy, to roll over, or to stand. Yussuf also has visual problems and swallowing problems. He is also still unable to communicate verbally.

While there is no medication or treatment that can cure many of Yussuf's neurologic or muscle problems, physiotherapy and other treatment programs help Yussuf improve and allow him to achieve small goals. While other children learn to sit, crawl, and walk on their own, Yussuf requires extensive therapy, which includes stretching and strengthening, to allow him to use his muscles for simple tasks. Without this therapy, Yussuf's muscles will tighten and he will not be able to make progress.

In my recent assessment of Yussuf, I was quite impressed with the strides that he has made with respect to standing and sitting. This is a direct result of the intensive private therapy that his parents have provided for him. Only minimal coverage is provided by the provincial government for physiotherapy, and Yussuf's progress more recently can be directly attributed to the increase in the number of hours of therapy that his parents have paid for and provided for him.

In my experience caring for children with cerebral palsy and multiple neurological and developmental issues such as Yussuf's, I realize that dedicated parents who advocate for their child can directly improve the outcome of their child and increase the likelihood of a happier, pain-free, and independent life. I support Yussuf and his parents in their quest to provide funding for his private therapy.

Sincerely,


Beth D. Gamulka MDCM, FRCPC