

March 28, 2022

To Montgomery County Council Public Hearing March 29, 2022:

Re: Casa Ruben Inc. Pediatric Mobile Medical Vehicle

I fully support the approval of Montgomery Council funding for Casa Ruben, Inc. The Foundation and Montgomery County would create a public-private initiative to use a mobile medical clinic to connect uninsured, under-insured, and under-resourced children and youth (ages 0-21 years) to healthcare and vaccinations.

Ever since I moved from New York to this state I wondered if I was ever going to find a good doctor to help me manage the complications of my children's needs. My daughters Mimi and Gigi are both ADHD and my son Mickeal is Autistic. I would like to tell you a little bit about how I came across the wonderful doctor Dr. Ligia Peralta.

As usual, in the morning I was watching Univision, the Spanish news station. And Silvana Quiroz was announcing the segment with Dr. Ligia Peralta. Every Wednesday morning Dr. Peralta would give advice about different topics about children. On this specific day Dr. Peralta was talking about Autism. The things Dr. Peralta was saying about caring for a child with Autism touched my heart very dearly. My second oldest son has Autism. His condition has changed our lives tremendously.

I tried to contact Univision with no luck to find Dr. Peralta. A few weeks later it was time for my children to go to their primary care doctor for their wellness check-up. On the day of the appointment, I saw Dr. Peralta come out of one of the examination rooms and I approached her and asked her "aren't you the doctor that come out on TV every Wednesday?" She responded, "Yes, Hi I am Dr. Peralta how can I help you?" I smiled and felt relieved, and I asked her if she was working at that clinic, and she told me yes. So, then we started talking in Spanish. I then decided that it was time for my children to switched providers. So, for the following visit we sat in the examination room and talked for a while about my children and their disabilities.

There was something that I loved about that conversation, and it was the nice and beautiful way she talked and cared for my children. As months went by, my children's condition was getting better and better. I decided to tell other people about Dr. Peralta, many of my friends were taking their children to Dr. Peralta office. And they were telling each other how nice and caring she is. This was attracting people to her office.

When the pandemic broke out Kennedy Kreiger discharged my son from their outpatient clinic leaving me in limbo without an aftercare plan for my son and more importantly without any medication. They didn't want the responsibility that my son was becoming. At this point I was getting very anxious and depressed. I was depriving myself from sleep by thinking about what I was going to do with my son Mickeal and the complicity of his case. I scheduled an appointment with Dr. Peralta who had said to me that she was going to take care of everything for me. Dr. Peralta words brought me comfort and hope. She called many places trying to find a

provider for my son that would take him. To me this was very important. I have never seen a doctor that would go on the phone and call about 10 places to find a provider for one of her patients like what Dra. Peralta was doing it for my family. She was winning my heart and soul.

To me Dr. Peralta represents hope, love and care. I have never seen such a caring doctor. She doesn't send her secretary to call the patients; she would call them herself. In today's world not many doctors would do this. I have never seen a doctor that would go on vacation and while she is vacation would call the patients' family to see how the patient is doing. Well to my fortune this is what makes Dr. Peralta so special to me and my family. My children love to go to her office because of the quality of care that Dr. Peralta does with her patients is unique. Her clinic staff is very friendly and always willing to help in any way possible.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank Dr. Peralta for everything she does for my family. May God protect and care for her so that she can continue to care for all of us. I thank you Dr. from the bottom of my heart. When everyone had turned their back on my son and daughters you gave me hope.

Sincerely,
Soraima Carmona
(Parent)