

My name is Kelly Umaña, and I am currently a long-time resident of Montgomery County (born and raised). I am also a Latina, a child of immigrants, and I work in the community to support recent immigrants navigating our public health and healthcare systems. I have witnessed inequitable access to quality health care firsthand, especially among children and youth. I am here to support and in favor of the Special Appropriation to the County Government's FY22 Operating Budget, Department of Health and Human Services - \$450,000 for Pediatric Mobile Medical Vehicle (Source of Funds: General Fund Reserves) and Amendment to FY22 Designation of Entities for Non-Competitive Contract Award Status: Casa Ruben, Inc.

This appropriation will expand healthcare access to the pediatric population, but I would like to emphasize the quality aspect of healthcare. Dr. Peralta and the team at Casa Rubén are community-driven and put the community first in all aspects of healthcare. In my professional space, I have referred recently arrived parents to Dr. Peralta as they await a response regarding their approval of health safety net programs. Dr. Peralta was able to see that family in less than three days of the referral. In addition, Dr. Peralta has been a pioneer in creating access to health education around pediatric COVID-19 vaccinations. Her team has been in the community improving access to COVID-19 vaccines for children and connecting with families at a human level. I hope that these funds are appropriated to Casa Rubén as they will continue to create meaningful, humanistic connections with families while improving healthcare access to children.