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Dear Medical Professional:

Your patient is in the process of applying for U.S. citizenship. As you may know, applicants for citizenship must be able to read, write, and speak basic English, as well as demonstrate knowledge of U.S. history and government. We believe that your patient may be unable to meet these requirements because of a disability or medical condition.

Enclosed, you will find a copy of Form N-648, Medical Certification of Disability Exceptions, and USCIS’s instructions for completing this form. Submission of this form may allow your patient to qualify for a waiver of the English and/or civics requirements. **Only a medical doctor, clinical psychologist, or doctor of osteopathy may certify this form**. Please remember that this form will be evaluated by a U.S. immigration officer and not by a trained medical professional, so your answers to all questions should be stated as simply and clearly as possible.

**Failure to fully and accurately complete this form can result in your patient being denied U.S. citizenship.** In the case of a denial, your patient would lose any paid $680 application fee. In extreme cases, your patient could be investigated for fraud.

In order for your patient to have the best possible chance of the waiver being accepted, I would like to draw your attention to a few specific questions:

* In Question 1, remember to include **DSM-IV** codes. Additionally, please be aware that referring to a patient’s illiteracy, lack of formal education, or advanced age can lead to rejection, as these factors alone are not sufficient to qualify for the waiver.
* No specific tests are required for Question 9. Please describe your diagnostic methods, including any tests you used, your patient’s results, and what those results mean.
* **Question 10 is the most important question on this form. Your answer to this question must include a detailed description of your patient’s medical condition and explain how that condition specifically prevents your patient from learning or demonstrating knowledge of English and/or civics.** Question 10 is also a good place to describe your patient’s medications and any effects those medications might have on your patient’s cognitive abilities.Please refer to the enclosed examples of sufficient and insufficient answers to this question for further guidance.

We understand that this is a long and complicated form and appreciate your willingness to assist your patient with this matter. If you have any concerns or questions, please feel free to contact me at (617) 694-5949 or at vserrato@gbcinitiative.org.

Thank you,

Veronica Serrato

Executive Director

Greater Boston Citizenship Initiative