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To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter at the request of Steven Sakac whose son, Tony Sakac, is my patient. Tony suffers from severe neurological disabilities secondary to a viral encephalitis and probably Lyme disease since December 1990. After a prolonged hospitalization in California, it was recommended to Mr. Sakac that Tony should be in a long-term care facility without any further rehabilitation since his prognosis was very poor and he was deemed brain dead or a chronic vegetative state. Mr. Sakac did not believe this was the case and took Tony home to care for Tony himself. Since then, without sufficient help, he has done a superb job taking care of Tony. At this time, I have recommended to Mr. Sakac to increase physical activities with Tony's therapy. Mr. Sakac has reported to me that he has at time been able to stand Tony up with assistance. I have agreed to allow him to do this at this time in an environment that is safe for Tony with adequate assistance.

Because Tony is strongly motivated to stand up, and he communicates this desire to his father, Mr. Sakac stands Tony up for several hours at a time. Therefore standing up for several hours is in accordance with Tony's wishes. It is also beneficial to his health. Since Tony begins standing up, he has now able to take several steps with the help of Mr. Sakac. In the past, Tony suffered seizures, which required emergency ambulance transport to the hospital. These seizures appear to be connected with episodes of Tony choking on his saliva. Two years ago, Mr. Sakac began the technique of placing a washcloth in Tony's mouth in order to draw off excess saliva and preventing choking. Mr. Sakac reports that for more than two years now, Tony has been free of seizures and the resultant need for emergency transport.

Mr. Sakac often pats Tony on his torso, limbs, etc. This is a therapy which helps stimulate both the brain and the circulation. Mr. Sakac informed me that this therapy occasionally has been misinterpreted by bystanders as something negative, when in fact it is improving Tony's health.

I strongly recommend the use of a specialized wheelchair-accessible van for Tony's transportation needs. However, it is my understanding that at this time Mr. Sakac, unfortunately, is not in a position to afford such a vehicle.

Sincerely,



Thienquang Le, MD