April 4, 2026

Re: Angelica Pacheco, Case No. 24-CR-20253

Dear Judge Becerra:

My name is Loyda Sánchez. I hold a Bachelor's degree in Psychology, and I have worked as a case manager for a total of 36 years for the State of Florida, for Miami-Dade County, and later for 11 years for the City of Hialeah through the South Florida Workforce program. I write respectfully to share what I know firsthand about Ms. Angélica Pacheco, her life journey, and her character. I am aware of the offense in this case, and I am not writing to minimize the seriousness of the situation or to justify what occurred. I write to provide real and human context about the person I have known for more than two decades.

I have known Angélica since 2002, when I worked at South Florida Workforce in the City of Hialeah and was assigned as her case manager. At that time, South Florida Workforce worked with the Department of Children and Families serving people who depended on public assistance, such as food stamps, TANF, and Medicaid. Our job was to help low-income and disadvantaged individuals obtain employment, training, child care support, and other basic resources so they could become stable.

When I met Angélica, she was 17 years old, a young mother with two small children, and pregnant. From the beginning, her situation stood out to me because she had very limited support and was trying to build stability for her children while facing serious hardships at home, including domestic violence.

From the start, Angélica came to my office with a clear goal to study nursing, work, and give her children a dignified and stable life. In my experience, it is extremely difficult for clients to remain consistent in a course of study when there is poverty, stress, lack of transportation, and lack of family support. Even as a teenager, Angélica demonstrated genuine determination and discipline beyond what was typical for her age.

I especially remember the process when Angélica applied to enter nursing school while she was pregnant. Although she passed the entrance exam with a very high score, she was not accepted initially. She was competing with hundreds of applicants, many of whom were older, had a background in healthcare, and had more resources. Angélica, by contrast, was a teenager with a GED, without a car, and carrying an enormous family burden.

Even so, she insisted and did not give up when she was told no. Our office helped her with bus passes because she had no transportation, and she took multiple buses every day to go to the school to ask for a chance to enter the program. One day she called me excited to tell me the school had contacted her: someone had cancelled at the last minute, and they were going to give that seat to her. That opportunity came, in large part, because Angélica remained present and persistent.

During that stage, Angélica received support through my office so she could stay in the program, including child care assistance and support with the cost of books and uniforms. But the most important point is that the main effort was hers, through sacrifices that still impress me when I think back on them.

Angélica studied full time Monday through Friday from 7:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Mercy Hospital, and she worked in a cafeteria from 4:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m. for $20 a day, all while pregnant. She attended school through Wednesday, gave birth on Thursday, and by Monday she was back in school and working. I do not say this as a nice-sounding line. I say it because I lived it as her case manager. I saw her appointments, her schedule, her exhaustion, and yet her follow-through.

As a case manager, part of my job was to evaluate a client's support network and whether the client was complying with requirements and staying engaged with services. In Angélica's case, she consistently showed up, communicated, followed through, and used assistance exactly as intended: as a temporary bridge to become stable through education and work. When there were scheduling conflicts because of the extreme demands on her time, she did not disappear. She stayed in contact, kept her commitments as best she could, and continued moving forward.

Over the years, I stayed in contact with Angélica. I know her husband and her children. I also know her mother and her brother, who has autism. When her mother left an abusive relationship, Angélica helped her mother rebuild, and since then Angélica has been a constant support for her mother and her brother. I believe this information is important because it is part of her character: even though she herself came from hardship and obstacles, Angélica carried family responsibilities with compassion and consistency.

In 2018, I worked alongside Angélica and her husband at Florida Life for a few months, helping with administrative support. "During that time, I saw patients attending groups throughout the entire day, and I observed Ms. Pacheco and her husband speaking with therapists about what was working and what additional support the clinical team needed. I also observed patients express appreciation directly, including giving Ms. Pacheco drawings that she put up on her wall. From observing staff and interacting with patients, I could tell the work was demanding and required consistent structure and follow-through. For health reasons, I was unable to continue working at the time, but during that period I saw Angélica treat people with care, humanity, and professional seriousness.

When Angélica told me she wanted to run for City Council in Hialeah, I became her number one supporter and voluntarily helped with her campaign because I saw real potential for leadership and service in her. I also served as a certified food handler and helped Angélica during the startup of the food pantry and food drives she organized at the Florida Life office. Between 2020 and 2022, I saw with my own eyes hundreds of people receiving help, and I observed the volume of work, coordination, volunteers and staff involved, and the orderly way people were served, all of which was directed and coordinated by Angélica.

Based on everything above, my opinions about Angélica are not a superficial impression or an unfounded statement that she is a "good person." My opinion comes from knowing her during her most vulnerable stage, supporting her professionally as her case manager, evaluating her family situation and lack of support, and seeing her actions firsthand for more than 24 years.

Angélica is responsible because, even when everything was against her, she followed through. She followed through for her children. She followed through at work. She followed through in school. She followed through with processes that were impossible for many

others. She is disciplined because she maintained extreme work and study routines without abandoning her goal. She is someone who cares about others because she not only rebuilt her own life, but she lifted up her mother when her mother left abuse, and she has been a support for her brother with autism. And she is a person of service because her career and her efforts have been connected to helping others, whether in a clinical environment, a community setting, or by coordinating concrete assistance such as food drives.

I understand that Angélica is now before this Court facing sentencing. I do not intend to tell the Court what decision it should make. I only ask, respectfully, that when considering her sentence, including the practical impact of supervision and any financial obligations as determined by the Court, the Court consider the full picture.

Angélica has taken responsibility for her conduct, and in my interactions with her I have seen growth, humility, and a sustained effort to move forward in a lawful, disciplined way. She has already paid a significant price through reputational harm and severe disruption to her family's financial stability, with consequences that will take years to overcome.

I have seen many people pass through the public assistance system. Some give up. Some become complacent. Some repeat patterns. Angélica did not. Angélica, with imperfections like any human being, has been a woman of drive, ethics, loyalty, and commitment to her family and her community. That is why I was willing to go out of my way to help her, because I was certain I was not helping someone who would take advantage, but someone who would transform that help into a life of work and responsibility.

Respectfully, I ask the Court to impose a sentence that allows Angélica to remain stable in the community under supervision, continue lawful employment, continue providing for her family, and comply with all financial obligations and conditions the Court orders in a way that she can realistically accomplish.

Thank you for your time and for considering this letter.

Respectfully,



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