



Speaker Therese M. Terlaje <senatorterlajeguam@gmail.com>

Bill 112-36

1 message

Martha Toves [REDACTED]
To: senatorterlajeguam@gmail.com

Wed, Jul 7, 2021 at 7:16 PM

Håfa Adai Speaker Terlaje,

First and foremost, my utmost respect for your courage and willingness to pursue Bill 112-36 along with your co-sponsors. I want to encourage you to continue to fight for the underserved and the majority of the people who cannot seek the justice they deserve.

I have listened to Dr. Joseph's testimony (via the public hearing on Youtube 7/7/21). Please don't be discouraged by his testimony. I entrusted Dr. Joseph's care and expertise for my fur baby a few years ago. We brought our fur baby into his clinic because she was ill. We were frantic and my children were distraught and basically told me to save our fur baby at any means. Dr. Joseph performed an ultrasound on our fur baby and told me she swallowed a foreign object and needed to have surgery to remove the foreign object. Thank goodness, I took photos of the ultrasound screen on my personal cell phone. I was willing to go with the surgery and asked to pay half on the day of the surgery and then pay the remaining balance two days after the surgery. Dr. Joseph refused, he even tried to convince me to apply for his "pet credit card" and pay the full amount prior to the surgery.

I didn't want to go that route because I didn't think it was necessary to get a credit card to pay for a surgery. Instead, I went ahead and got a second opinion from another veterinarian (vet). I went into the clinic frantically and assumed that if our fur baby was going to die, at least she would be in a clinic and if the timing was right, she would be accessible to a vet at the moment. When our fur baby was seen, the vet asked if I had any records or ultrasound images. I told the vet that the other vet would not release any records or perform any surgery unless I paid \$1,200 upfront. I did tell the vet that I took photos of the ultrasound monitor. He immediately asked to see the photos on my phone and he instantly said that our fur baby did not swallow a foreign object but instead her uterus was infected and he diagnosed her as having pyometra and that her uterus had to be immediately removed. He assured me that he can perform the surgery (on the same day) and that the cost would be \$350.

Of course I took that route and was relieved that a vet would immediately attend to my fur baby's needs and knew that the severity of the illness had to be done immediately. As a result, our fur baby has survived and has been with us for 12 years. It pains me to think if I took the advice of Dr. Joseph, what would the fate of my fur baby be?

To deny care because I couldn't pay \$1,200 upfront and I was willing to pay half and sign a promissory note prior to the surgery was unbelievable. I felt at that point, Dr. Joseph wasn't in it for the necessary care of the animal but for the money. He flat out refused to perform any surgery unless payment was rendered. I knew that bringing our fur baby home alive to my children was something I needed to do.

I appreciate your efforts and courage to fight for the underserved and the underprivileged! May God be with you!

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Respectfully,
Martha LG Toves