

Hello, Honorable Senators and Representatives, my name is Esther González and I am a student at the UCONN School of Social Work. I am here today to testify on Bill #462, "An act concerning a fair share health care surcharge." I would hope that our legislation would support this bill that will help hard working people have health insurance that adequately provides necessary and substantial coverage. In my family, we were taught to value our health even more than possessions. My family and I were fortunate to be able to go to the doctor when we were sick, but as I grew up I found out that everyone does not have the same privilege. If I value health, I have to support a bill that would help a family who has someone who is sickly to be able to get the consultation and medical care that is needed. I also learned that every health insurance is not the same, some cover less than others and I believe that the bill will set a rate that can raise the level of coverage. This bill targets retail companies which have 5,000 or more employees, for example, Wal-Mart. It is a fact that Wal-Mart is one of the most lucrative companies in the United States. Why would they not want to have their employees covered adequately if they have the means to do so? We need to help keep our fellow statesmen employed and insured. You have the power to make a difference for good in the life of those that are overwhelmed with the high cost of living. I would ask that you will support health and pass this bill.

Thank you for your time. Do you have any questions?