

*Caring Families*



# *Caring Families Coalition*

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Name: Ethel Hauglund  
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My name is Ethel Hauglund. I live in Willimantic. I am a registered voter, an honor student at Quinebuag Valley Community College and, a member of the Eastern Regional Mental Health Board, elected by my peers. I am in support of Senate Bill 1. Thank you very much for a chance to tell you about my experience with the health care system.

I have Medicaid. My primary physician accepts it, but is not happy about it. I need back and hip surgery. No doctor in my area will even see me because of my insurance. The only thing my doctor can do for me is to fill me up with pain medications.

Nine years ago I had what was considered good insurance through my husband at the time. It was from his job at the casino, and from the military. I had run out of the mental health part of the insurance. I needed to be hospitalized, but the hospital turned me away because we owed them too much. They covered themselves by saying I didn't need to be inpatient. The next day I did something and, ended up in a state mental hospital for seven years.

We need universal health care so everyone gets the help they need. We need all health problems covered, that includes mental health.

My experience shows that our system is "penny wise and pound foolish." In both physical and mental health, I got worse because insurance rules denied me cheaper and better care. It forced me to get sicker, and need much more expensive care. Please make sure that the new program covers everyone equally as well as our state legislators. Thank you for your attention.