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Natalia Perez
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Dear Sen. Crisco, Rep. Fontana and Members of the Insurance and Real Estate Committee:

We need you to stand for your constituents that would benefit from the following bills: **HB 6582**, and **HB 6600**, the Sustinet health plan, a comprehensive health care reform. I had a great health care plan for over 30 years where I was fortunate enough to have a full time job with benefits. Three years ago I was diagnosed with spinal stenosis, thyroid disease and severe arthritis. My Doctor was shocked to know that I was working under these conditions and immediately told me that I could not go back to work because my condition will continue to worsen.

My Doctor was right, I am feeling worse and most of the time struggle getting out of bed due to the severe pain I am feeling. I have 4 lovely grandchildren and can't enjoy them as much as I would like because I can't pick them up due to the strong back pains I constantly have. I have applied for Social Security 4 times and have been denied and at times regret having seen my Doctor because now I am uninsured for the first time in my life and cannot afford the necessary prescriptions to take away the constant pain I feel. I reschedule Doctor's appointments because I cannot afford to pay my copays and also struggle to pay my bills and buy groceries.

It's very challenging for me to see that I worked hard to provide for my family and to give my children a college education. I worked hard to live the American Dream and at the age of 58 where I should be thinking about how to plan my golden years, I have to make difficult decisions such as; should I pay my bills first or buy my needed prescriptions?

I urge you to think of the hard working families who are most affected in our state. Please think of our state motto "He who transplants, sustains." We need to implement a plan in Connecticut to cover everyone.

Sincerely,
Natalia Perez