

Hello, my name is Jasmin Ayala and I am here to support SB 425 for the State Basic Health Program.

I recently separated from an eleven year relationship and in the midst of picking up the pieces and trying to do things for myself and my two children a son of 8 years old and a daughter who is 5. I am currently a student at Brandford Hall and am going for Professional Medical assistant. Part of my duties to be able to do my lab work which includes phlebotomy I must get a series of shots for Hep B. I must do this with in the next 3 months and the process itself takes 6 months for those of you who don't know. Being that I do not have insurance because I left my old job and am currently doing PCA work, I don't work enough hours or get paid enough to afford the 75 dollar shot and the visit, which all together will cost me over 500 dollars. That is just part of my dilemma, as allergy season is here and my 8 year old son needs his allergy medication which without insurance is going to cost 300 dollars. When he does not take all the medication it leads to asthma which thankfully has not been too severe but I also can't afford to get to that point for his sake. Along with this he also is in need of his ADHD medication -- although his grades are great, he needs them to stay on task at school, home and his after school activities. My daughter is young and has thankfully has not had any major issues but with the summer fast approaching it's important she have insurance – children are unpredictable.

Both my children were taken off state insurance without a letter stating they would be, just the one stating they no longer had the insurance. I sat at the DSS office for about an hour in between work and school to be sure all the paper work was provided and was told I would be contacted within the next 30 to 45 days. Now I am unable to get a hold of anyone on the phone, I am always directed to some automated system and the calls never seem to be returned.

As any parent, I am in need of insurance and can not afford to sit around waiting the 30 plus days while my son suffers along with my chances of furthering my career to get paid better and provide for both my children and myself. This is why I support the SB 425 for the State Basic Health Program.