

**Rosalita Santana**  
**Housekeeping Aide, Connecticut Health Center**

Good evening. My name is Rosalita Santana, and I've worked at the Connecticut Health Center as a housekeeping aid since 2010. I'm here to testify in support of HB 5378, which would reclassify the work I do, so that we could be treated like other light cleaners.

My coworkers and I do everything at the job. We clean the administrative offices, but we also clean the Operating Room and Emergency Room and the ICU and dialysis. In all those places we take out the trash. We have to clean and mop. We have to disinfect the rooms. I have to take out the dirty linens. We take out the red boxes with needles. With the mattresses, we need two people to lift and flip them.

Our work is just as hard as other cleaners' work, but right now, I make \$14.63 an hour, which is less than others who do similar work. No doubt, there are worse places to work. But we would like to be treated fairly under the law, and it would make a big difference to our families, too.

I'm divorced with two boys. This is my only job. I have an autistic 15-year-old son named Junior, who needs a babysitter that I have to pay for, and an 18-year-old, Carlos, who goes to Manchester Community College. He has some grants, but I have to give him money to buy his school books; there's always something. I hope that you will consider supporting HB 5378 to recognize the kind of work we do, and to allow us to be covered by the same law that supports other cleaners in Connecticut. Thank you.