

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB956
HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE OF CT GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

Dear Members of the Human Services Committee of Connecticut General Assembly:

My name is Imelda Barajas, I am a mother and I live in Hartford CT with my family. I am undocumented.

I stand in support of S.B. No. 956: "AN ACT PROVIDING MEDICAL ASSISTANCE TO CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS REGARDLESS OF IMMIGRATION STATUS," with clear language that extends eligibility to all HUSKY programs to all CT residents, regardless of immigration status.

In 2006 I had a very traumatic experience in the emergency room at Hartford Hospital. I arrived with a very strong stomach ache, it made me freeze up from the pain. My husband tried to comfort me and hug me but the pain was just too much.

When I arrived they sent me to the front desk to give my information. There was no interpretation, I had to use gestures to tell them my name and that I was experiencing deep stomach pain. They never moved me to a room to take my vitals, or to ask me what level of pain I was feeling.

Because I didn't have health insurance, they sent me to the waiting room. I thought that seeing how much pain I was in they would see me, but no. Other people arrived who had insurance and they were seen by doctors right away. I was still waiting. I thought I was going to die waiting.

I don't know how long I waited but it was until the morning, starting at 11pm. I fell asleep from the pain. When I woke up they still wouldn't see me so I went home, I couldn't wait any longer. They didn't do anything. Because I didn't have insurance they didn't see me. We went to Walgreens and got some pills for the pain.

Another time I went to the community health center because I was having very long and painful periods. First they made me wait a week to check if I was eligible to be seen by a doctor. I never saw a gynecologist, only a regular doctor who did a biopsy. They said they didn't find anything but that I should take some medicine for the pain. One prescription that didn't do anything to help me cost me \$180. Sometimes with the hope of getting better

we make the sacrifice to pay, but you never know if it's going to work.

It would be a big relief to have access to health insurance. At least have access to a doctor that could see us in case of emergency. It's not just me, it's many of us. We are afraid of getting sick because we don't have health insurance.

I stand in support of S.B. No. 956: "AN ACT PROVIDING MEDICAL ASSISTANCE TO CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS REGARDLESS OF IMMIGRATION STATUS,"

Thank you for your time,

Imelda Barajas

Member of Hartford Deportation Defense