

TESTIMONY OF MRS. CAMACHO

Collaborator with HAVEN Free Clinic
Resident of New Haven

Hello good afternoon my name is Adelina Camacho, my best regards to the Members of the Human Services Committee. I am in favor of the bill: S.B. NO. 956. AN ACT PROVIDING MEDICAL ASSISTANCE TO CERTAIN PERSONS REGARDLESS OF THEIR MIGRATION STATUS. I have been in this country for some time now and I agree with the Hispanic community that we should ask for affordable health insurance with medical coverage for specialists, insurance that covers and attends to mental health, and dental health for all the families that represent our Latino community. And also at a low cost since we also contribute to the economy of this country day by day. We are the working class, we do not want to be a public charge or to be labeled in this way.

We demand dignified and humane treatment and medical attention. We are here to contribute and we do even more than some of the citizens of this country. We do not want to be discriminated against when receiving medical care. I have been hospitalized for several things as well as my children, and we have been sent home in less than adequate conditions, putting our health at even more.

The health services I have accessed for true emergencies, the treatment I have received has always been with discrimination. My children were born in this country, and they have also suffered from this (discrimination). We need to raise awareness about this in our medical services.

The last emergency I had in, in September of last year, I had a hysterectomy. I went to the emergency room because I was hemorrhaging, they gave me blood, and I had to have emergency surgery. I was admitted to the hospital at 7:00 am, the surgery was at 10:00 am and at 1:00 pm I was discharged to go back home. They sent me home with pain and no help from anyone and they did not let me spend the 24 critical hours of surgery in the hospital. Thank God I am here now, but that is why we ask this country to which we contribute with our taxes, a humanitarian and dignified medical service for the Latino community and our children.

During this last visit, no nurse on the floor wanted to attend to me, only a Latin-American male nurse came to help me and did everything in his power to provide care. It is incredible how racist situations and discrimination affect us so much both physically and emotionally, because at that time I suffered the lack of humanitarian medical care. The same thing happened in the emergency room with a Latino-American male nurse who came to help me. I am asking for an accessible insurance, that provides the necessary services so that every patient knows what they have and what to do.

I am a single mother, I have no help from the state, of any kind and day by day I look for the sustenance for my family. Our children also contribute to this country, which is also theirs. I do not feel like a public charge.

I am a single mother and my two children depend on me and I want other Latinas, women in my condition to have health insurance with humane and equal treatment, with professionalism and respect from all the medical providers and from all the people who are in charge of it. We not longer want to be discriminated against or be used as guinea pigs in this system.

We want to be cared for in the best possible way, just like EVERYONE else.