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Resident of Westbrook

In support of SB 956 (with modifications)

Dear Members of the Human Services Committee:

I am a Westbrook resident who has lived in Connecticut since 2011 with my children. We are undocumented. My 16-year-old son is studying and getting good grades. His dream is to be a doctor. I hope that he can become a person who helps this country. But it is not easy, because he came to this country when he was 7 years old and is undocumented.

Neither my children nor I have health insurance. Sometimes when my children were sick, I did not take them to the doctor, because I feared the bills.

A year ago, I fell on the job. I am a domestic worker who cleans houses. As a result of this fall, my leg and knee have been inflamed for the past year. I was stuck in bed for three and a half months without medical attention. Four months after the fall, I finally got an appointment with the doctor.

The appointment was very delayed because I do not have medical insurance. The lack of medical care left me with many ongoing symptoms that could have been avoided. A person without insurance cannot get an appointment with a specialist. You have to apply to various charitable organizations. In some cases, they accept your application, in others, they do not. In my case, thanks be to God, they helped me, but I struggled for so long to get help.

Even now, my leg is still inflamed. Every day, I have to tie up my leg so that I can feel a little better. Despite the pain, I have to go to work every day to put food on the table. I am a single mother. For domestic workers who clean houses, take care of children and take care of the elderly, there is no law that gives us rights or protects us, so our wages are low. Our work is essential but undervalued.

I believe that as human beings, as undocumented people, and as citizens, we all deserve to have medical care. God bless you.