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In support of SB 956 (with modifications)

Dear Members of the Human Services Committee:

I want to give my testimony for the right to health for everyone, regardless of their immigration status.

I have lived in this country for seventeen years. I worked at a hotel for fourteen years, where the employer provided medical insurance. Then I lost my job at the hotel because of the pandemic, and so I lost my health insurance. The hotel laid me off one year ago, and I have been scraping by with little work and almost zero income.

I depended greatly on my health insurance, and today I urgently need it. The glasses that I use now are more than two years old, and because of that, I have bad headaches and an awful pain in my eyes, but I don't have money to buy the eyedrops, which cost \$100 and are very special because I have eczema. I also have dental problems. I barely have any teeth, and the teeth that I have are in pain. Fourteen years cleaning hotel rooms left me with arthritis, and I need medications to deal with my arthritis pain.

All of us should have health insurance, whether or not we have an employer. It's not fair that we must depend on an employer to give us health insurance. Many immigrants work in an irregular way, and they are also human beings and need health care.

Today we are facing a pandemic that has revealed the fragility of our lives. It's time to change the current situation before we are dealt with another pandemic.

I am not the only one. There are many of us immigrants, more than eleven million people who, like me, are in the same situation.

Because of this, legislators, we demand that you pass this law. We demand our rights to have a dignified life and dignified treatment from the health care system. This insurance would mark a shift from an exclusive state to an inclusive state. You all can be the heroes of this movie and provide medical insurance to essential workers. Thank you very much.