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In support of SB 956 (with modifications)

I have lived in Norwalk Connecticut for 7 years, paying my taxes just as citizens do. Today I am here not only for me, but also representing members of our group called "Chapinas Unidas" and "Unidad Latina en Acción." I represent myself as one more victim, along with my son Matías who died in my womb at 39 weeks of pregnancy.

I represent all the women who have suffered discrimination as a result of not having access to healthcare. Last November my son died because I was not heard. In addition to the pain from the death of my son, I have to continue battling the consequences that resulted from malpractice during my pregnancy.

I complained many times about the symptoms that I had. For example, I spent the whole pregnancy vomiting and I said 'Please can you give me something?', so they sent me some pills that were going to cost \$1,000 because I did not have health insurance. I told them that I couldn't afford those pills, and they sent me others that I was able to pay, but they did not work for me. I kept vomiting and I still had a lot of caesura or cramping, so I asked if they could send me something else, and they told me to buy Tums at CVS.

When they gave me a glucose test they asked me if I would also like to take a Down syndrome test, which would cost \$700 more because I didn't have insurance. My children's health is of utmost importance to me, so I said 'Yes.' It didn't matter, I was going to pay for that exam. They did the test and ultimately they lost my blood results. They lost it, and when I returned to do the test again they said it was too late for a Down syndrome exam and they could no longer do it. That was one incident.

I also suffered from gestational diabetes which resulted in many complications. My nails turned purple and I complained, but instead of sending me in to do analyses to find out why I had purple nails, the only answer I received was 'It's because of the cold.'

This was very difficult for me and I still have not recovered, because my son would be with me if they had listened. Moreover, it was not a fetus of only a few weeks, he was already 38 weeks and 6 days old. So, I feel that he could have been saved if they had listened to me when I told them that I was too big, or how come I didn't have a cesarean section, and everything else I told them: That I was bloated, that I was gaining too much weight even though I didn't eat, that I was vomiting all day. And the loss of my son is what hurts me the most, because I would have preferred to die myself and for my son to be alive.

I didn't have the option of saying, 'Well this clinic doesn't listen to me, I'm going to go to another clinic, another gynecologist,' no, that was the only clinic. After speaking with another girl who has documentation, she told me 'I'm pregnant and I was going to that clinic but I called the insurance to complain because they were not treating me as I would have wanted, so the insurance changed and I went to other clinics.' And I say to myself

'Wow,' I tell her to feel blessed because she has that option unlike us without insurance. I couldn't go in and say, 'She doesn't provide good care, I'm going to another gynecologist.' I was without that option because here, Norwalk is the only pregnancy clinic. I even called another clinic called Americare to see if they could treat me and they told me that they unfortunately did not have gynecology services. So in my case, I believe that if I had had insurance I could have chosen any doctor and they could have saved my son's life.

We deserve to be cared for in a dignified manner and as human beings thus, it is important to extend Medicaid to all migrants. It is time for a change, just as my son died, so many others have died in this damn pandemic; for all the dead, for all the families who lost loved ones, it's time for a change, a change for the love of life. Thank you.