

Rosa Jimenez
Unidad Latina en Acción
Resident of New Haven

In support of SB 956 (with modifications)

Honorable Members of the Human Services Committee:

I am a mother, a house cleaner, and a resident of Connecticut for eighteen years. I ask you to pass SB 956 and make free healthcare a human right for everyone, because it would change our lives. I say this for myself and for many others who are essential workers and who, throughout this pandemic, have sacrificed everything and risked our lives every day at work.

Three years ago, I was diagnosed with a cardiac arrhythmia, and because I have no money or health insurance, I have not been able to have a surgery. I repeatedly get sick and end up in the Emergency Room. The doctors tell me I must get the surgery as soon as possible. I am trying through different avenues to see if I can be approved for an operation.

Every time that I go to the E.R. in crisis, I receive bills for thousands of dollars. Unfortunately, I have not been able to cover these costs. It is too much money. I hope that the State someday will look on us and help us cover this basic need and human right. It would change our lives a thousand percent.

Without medical insurance, it is very hard to choose medical providers, in particular specialists. Often the doctors whom I see are still students. Although they are well-intentioned, they don't necessarily have experience, and they don't come to the right diagnosis or treatment that I need to deal with my cardiac problem.

Like many people, we came to the United States to get ahead, not to be a burden on anyone, but sometimes, people don't account for the illnesses that can come upon them.

I pray to God always that you would approve insurance for immigrants. Even though I am in debt with the hospital, something I do not deny, I have not stopped paying my debts. I have never been a burden on the State. I have always paid my taxes over the years. I have never asked for or received funds from the State. And despite paying my taxes like thousands of people, I have never gotten back money from my taxes like U.S. citizens do, even though I am below the poverty line.

It is hard to live like this sometimes, when you can't have a normal life. Some days I am not at 100%, and it is a rollercoaster every day. I hope that my testimony can reach people like you, who can make this medical insurance a reality for us immigrants. Thank you.