

Hello everyone, my name is Liliana Oliveira, I am a graduate student at the University of Connecticut. Thank you for taking the time to read through this testimony I have prepared for today.

I will begin with a reflection of the injustice and inequality that have been pervasive in this country. United States claims to have been a placeholder for democracy, however its action towards the marginalized tells a different story. A story that shows prosperity is allotted to some, and minorities are not given access to things that provide for basic human needs. What's even worse is how this story continues to be told today. Inequality is not a thing of the United States past, it's embedded in its being, evident in our fight for health care for all today.

As the so-called land of the immigrants, we are hesitant to provide for them. Why are we holding back from providing for our community members? Undocumented or not, everyone plays a crucial role in the function of our society, so why should they be deemed unworthy of things like health care? The fact of the matter is, they are worth and access to healthcare should be provided for all, regardless of immigration status. Everyone should have access to health care, it is what they deserve as human beings. A person's migration status should not be the thing that's preventing them from being alive.

If we wish to call ourselves a democracy we have to fight for and provide for the needs of everyone especially those most vulnerable.

Healthcare is not a privilege, it is a right. A right that should be extended to everyone regardless of their immigration status.

Thank you for your time.