

Nicolas Rodriguez
Resident of Hamden
Member of Unidad Latina en Acción

In support of SB 956 (with modifications)

I have lived in Hamden for 6 years and in New Haven County for the past 16 years. My wife and I are undocumented immigrants and we have 3 children who were born here in the United States. We have worked in the same factory for the past 21 years but our job doesn't give us medical insurance.

In the past year, my wife has gone to the emergency room multiple times due to gallbladder pain and bleeding. The doctors told us that my wife needed a surgery, but after the hospital found out that my wife didn't have medical insurance and she was an undocumented immigrant, they told my wife that they wouldn't operate on her because it wasn't an emergency and it wasn't a life or death situation. The hospital sent my wife home even though she had really bad pain, and this happened 3 times.

Now I'm paying \$370 per month for medical insurance for my wife, plus \$4,000 in deductibles and copayments. She finally had the surgery done. At the same time, I'm paying medical bills for my kids. They qualify for Husky B, but they don't qualify for Husky A, because apparently my income is too high.

We live day by day, check by check. I had COVID-19 and I still suffer symptoms, but I can't stop working because we have so many expenses which include: the mortgage, the taxes on the house which are way too high, and all the medical bills.

My wife needs another surgery, and I don't know how I'm going to pay for it. I'm currently suffering from anxiety and sleep deprivation. One of my kids is also suffering from anxiety because he sees everything that is going on.

We have been honest about our income and we do everything correctly. But now that we need help, no one is helping us.

We need accessible and free medical insurance for everyone. The working class is suffering, we need economic relief for the working class. Thank you for listening.