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In support of SB 956 (with modifications)

Healthcare for all, regardless of immigrant status

I have lived in New Haven for many years and I am a domestic worker. I lost my jobs because of the pandemic. My husband worked in a pizzeria which was shut down, and to this day we are waiting for an economic bailout. Now he works in a meat packing plant.

For me it is very important that you approve this bill for undocumented immigrants, because many times we get sick, and we are very afraid to go to the Emergency Room knowing that we do not have health insurance, because afterwards we cannot pay the bills that arrive. The mere fact of entering the Emergency Room means that we will spend between 300 and 600 dollars. When one earns at most 300 per week, if we pay that, how will we eat? What will be left to pay utilities and rent?

In this time of the pandemic, my husband got sick with COVID, we all went into quarantine, then I got the virus and we entered a second quarantine, and finally my daughter tested positive. Three quarantines, three months of not earning a dollar.

We were very afraid, we did not want to go to the Hospital to receive help, because we know that when we leave that hospital, if COVID does not kill us then the hospital debt will kill us.

That is why I am raising my voice, because we all have rights, both undocumented people and people with regular status. In the end we are all human beings and we have a right to have medical insurance. To be able to go to the Emergency Rooms and no longer be afraid.

We come to the United States to work and do something for this country, we contribute, we give our work, we pay taxes, but the country is not doing anything for us. It is time for justice.