

Testimony of Ana Zapata

Re: In support of SB 956 (with modifications)

Dear Members of the Human Services Committee of the Connecticut General Assembly:

My name is Ana Zapata. I support SB956, but with modifications. I stand in support of SB956: AN ACT PROVIDING MEDICAL ASSISTANCE TO CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS REGARDLESS OF IMMIGRATION STATUS, but with clearer language to include ALL CT residents that qualify under the full current HUSKY eligibility.

This bill would change my life greatly, as well as that of my family, and of all of us who do not have health insurance in these difficult times. The pandemic has revealed the truth. We do not have employment rights, and when we get COVID, we cannot access adequate medical services.

If I had insurance, I would be able to keep my job. I have spinal issues and I cannot stand for more than five minutes at a time. I am given rehabilitation exercises, but it is hard for me to pay them because I do not have a job.

Like many people, I have worked hard and paid taxes. We contribute to this country. Undocumented people pay more than \$400 million in taxes. It would be good and just to approve this law for insurance for all. Sometimes we are exploited. Employers have not paid us the minimum wage. It is hard not to have these services because, at the end of the day, we want to be healthy in order to work.

I have been denied medical care many times because I did not have insurance. I went to a clinic to see a gynecologist. They told me I would have to pay \$300 for the visit. I have an abnormal ultrasound of my uterus and I am afraid it could be cancer, but I have not been able to get it checked. This affects me psychologically and makes me very sad because I am sick. In the past weeks, I have been rejected three times even though I am sick. It is frustrating.

Thank you,

Ana Zapata
Resident of New Haven
Patient of the HAVEN Free Clinic