

Hello everyone,

My name is Theresa Armijo, I currently live in Hartford, I work for a scientific federal government agency full time, and I support S.B. 842.

When I was 23 years old, I discovered something no young woman should ever discover: a lump in my breast. I went to my doctor expressing concern, and was referred to have an ultrasound. The best-case scenario for the ultrasound was that this lump was a cyst, but unfortunately, that is not what they found. I was then referred to have a biopsy done, and found that this was in fact a tumor that needed to be removed to prevent the possibility of it turning cancerous later on in life. Five months later, I had the exact same surgery in my other breast. I never thought I would say something like this, but at 23 years old, I had to have tumors removed from my breasts.

At this time, I was early on in my career with a very low salary, where I qualified for Husky. Had I not been on Husky, I would have had to pay around \$27,000 from the surgeries, consultations, biopsy, and ultrasounds. Luckily, it only took me about a year to pay off the small fraction of medical expenses I was responsible for.

I support this act because I cannot imagine someone needing this level of medical care and not having the insurance to provide the assistance necessary. We need to pass this so we don't have to consider the what ifs anymore, and give others the peace of mind that I was so lucky to have.

Thank you.