

Dear Members of Insurance and Real Estate of the Connecticut General Assembly:

My name is **Dunia Dominguez**, I am from New Haven, Connecticut. I am involved with the Semilla Collective. I support S.B. 842: An Act Concerning Health Insurance and Health Care In Connecticut.

S.B. 842 will make health care equitable, dependable, and affordable by creating new public options for health insurance in our state.

I used to work in a card manufacturing factory, I developed a strong pain in the back after working for many years there. I didn't have enough money nor access to affordable healthcare, because I could not have the surgery that I needed, which cost \$20,000.

The pain worsened and extended to my shoulder and arm. My work did not provide me with any help and finally I lost my job. I have been without work for five years and my husband recently lost his job in a restaurant due to the pandemic. The only people in my house that have health insurance are my children. We are lucky that we did not get sick because we would be in debt, but we live in fear.

My brother was stabbed and he was in the hospital for a long time and had an operation. He lives with chronic pain because of the stabbing and the medical procedure, and he owes more than \$20,000 to Yale and cannot work as he wants to. He lives with debt and is incapable of working.

I urge the Committee and Connecticut lawmakers to support S.B. 842 this session to expand high-quality, dependable, and affordable health care by creating new public options for health insurance.

Thank you for your time,
Dunia Dominguez, Semilla Collective