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February 9th, 2021
Phyllis Frazier, Direct Support Staff
Sunrise Northeast in Hebron
SEIU 1199NE
Before the Insurance and
Real Estate Committee

In Support of SB 842: AN ACT CONCERNING HEALTH INSURANCE AND HEALTHCARE IN CONNECTICUT

Good Afternoon Senator Lesser, Representative Wood, and members of the Insurance and Real Estate committee. My name is Phyllis Frazier and I live in Willimantic, CT. I have worked as a Direct Support Staffer at Sunrise Northeast in Hebron for 21 years. I am here today to testify in support of SB 842.

As a Direct Support Staffer I work with individuals with intellectual disabilities, helping them to learn new skills to improve the quality of their lives. It is incredibly rewarding to work with my clients and to help them live normal lives. While of course this is my job, my clients feel like family to me.

One incredibly challenging aspect of working at Sunrise Northeast is the outrageously expensive health insurance. The family plan offered by Sunrise for instance is \$5,200 a month. This is more than I make in a month. I've spent over 20 years of my life working for this company, and I feel insulted that this is what they offer my co-workers and I in terms of health insurance.

While I don't make enough money to afford the plans offered by Sunrise, I make too much to be eligible for Husky. At 62 years old, I live in fear that something will happen and I will face a medical bill that sends me into financial crisis. Even small procedures are difficult to handle. I currently have a cavity that I cannot afford to address, and soon that cavity may become a root canal which will only be more expensive to have taken care of. Thank god the vaccine and testing have been free, because if it wasn't I would not be able to afford it.

If Connecticut had a public option it would take some weight off my shoulders and allow me to breathe a little easier. I would know that if something happened to me, I would be taken care of. There are thousands of people out there just like me. People who earn too much and too little at the same time. Please do what is right by us, as we do for the people we care for. Please support SB 842.

Thank you for your time.