

Testimony in Favor of SB 842
An Act Concerning Health Insurance and Health Care in Connecticut
Insurance and Real Estate Committee

Submitted by:
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Dear Senator Lesser, Representative Wood, and members of the Insurance and Real Estate Committee,

My name is Sally Grossman and I am from Windsor. I am submitting testimony in favor of SB 842, An Act Concerning Health Insurance and Health Care in Connecticut.

As someone who spent the majority of their adult life being underinsured, I know the importance of having access to affordable, comprehensive and quality healthcare coverage. I spent my entire 20's having a catastrophic health insurance plan, which covered very little and had a high deductible. I went untreated for over a decade for persistent migraines because I could not afford the cost of seeing specialists, including tests such as MRIs and CT scans. When I was hospitalized with a kidney infection during this time, I spent thousands on my care, money that I did not have. It was not until I became pregnant with my first child that I found out about Medicaid and was able to obtain health coverage through the program (because my existing insurance plan did not cover maternity care). Because Medicaid covered 100% of my healthcare costs, I was able to get quality prenatal care. So, when I went into pre-term labor at 28 weeks, I went straight to the hospital because I knew I was covered. Because I did not wait to seek care, the doctors were able to stop the contractions. I was able to carry my son to term and he was born healthy. I was also able to be treated for my migraines. I went from having a constant migraine, all day, every day, non-stop for years (which limited my ability to be a functional member of society), to getting one or two mild migraines a month. I am now able to participate more in my life, while many uninsured or underinsured individuals cannot say the same.

Healthcare needs to be affordable, accessible and comprehensive. It's not a privilege afforded to those with means, or those, like me, who are poor enough to qualify for state aid. It needs to be made available to everyone regardless of immigration status, employment or income. Healthcare is not a privilege; it is a right.