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United for Quality Care

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Wendy Marcoux  
Direct Support Professional  
Whole Life  
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 Wendy Marcoux, I live in South Windsor, and I am a Direct Support Professional with Whole Life. I am here today to testify in support of SB 842.

Caring for people has always been a passion of mine. I first began working with children, but eventually moved to working with adults. Within my position at Whole Life I care for people with mental and physical disabilities. I help them learn new skills that they can use in their everyday lives. Through this work you develop bonds with the individuals you care for, and it is fulfilling to see them do well and to know you helped them.

While I enjoy the work I do at Whole Life, I feel disrespected whenever I attempt to utilize our health insurance plan. The monthly premiums are manageable, but, the deductible is backbreaking. For individual plans the deductible is \$3,500, which means that unless I am in need of a serious procedure I must pay out of pocket. Furthermore, I make too much money to qualify for Husky, so unless I want to be uninsured I am stuck with this plan.

Working as a Direct Support Professional I am tasked on a daily basis with caring for others, but I live in constant fear that something will happen to me there will be no one to care for me. When you board a plane you are told that in the case of an emergency you should take care of yourself first before you care for others. How can we expect professional care givers to continue serving their communities, when we do next to nothing to ensure they can care for themselves?

If Connecticut had a public option, it would make a huge difference in people's lives. I think it would serve as a safety net for people. If we lost our jobs or got hurt, it would serve as a real safety net for us. Please do the right thing and pass this bill, so care givers like me can continue to do our jobs with peace of mind and the support we need. Please support SB 842.

Thank you for your time.