

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

My name is Adriana Rodriguez and 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.

Husky offers security for my family, my children, but they asked for our papers and personal data. And I need this insurance but I said no, thank you very much. Because I don't want to expose myself, I am scared that ICE will come to my house.

This affects us a lot, my husband had to go to the hospital, you have to make payment plans and it's very expensive. He got a stomach infection, they sent us to Guilford, we waited six hours and almost went back to our house because they had us waiting for a long time. Finally they saw us and prescribed him medication. Before going to get treatment, we waited one week with this pain, taking natural remedies. Always we use these medications that were sent from Mexico, homemade remedies, cups of tea, pills, potions, because it costs so much for us to go to the doctor. We have no insurance.

It affects the whole family. Paying high costs to the hospital lowers our economic resources in our house. We have to think about food and eating less, lowering our use of electricity or gas, because we would have to pay all these costs. Instead of going to the doctor, we self medicate ourselves here in the house.

On only one occasion, my husband got sick with a high temperature, a cough, we thought he got COVID then we went to a doctor on Grand Ave to inspect him. We had to pay for the consultation and the medications, which cost \$600 in total.

It would mean a lot if this bill were passed. I am a woman that has not had a *pap smear or a mammogram*. I have to care for myself, and I know that it has to be done and a lot of time has passed but with the cost, I can't do it. My daughter is 11 years old and since she was born, I have not received this exam. I feel okay so far and what more can I do? I am undocumented and there's not a program in the State of Connecticut that takes care of us. We work for this state, doing food service jobs, working as farmworkers, construction workers, and taking care of children and the elderly, but who takes care of us when we get sick?

Us immigrants are always excluded from many things, not just health insurance. We are most affected by the pandemic but we are excluded from these programs. We are humans, we need access to healthcare. I urge the committee and CT 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,  
Adriana Rodriguez, Semilla Collective