

Good evening,

My name is Amanda Valentin and I am a graduate student at Southern Connecticut State University studying Social Work. I have my Bachelor's of Social Work from Southern as well, and through my studies, I have become very passionate about making sure that community members have access to healthcare without the barrier of an income bracket. I truly believe that all members of the community deserve to see a doctor when they're sick without worrying if that trip to the doctor will prevent them from paying rent that month, especially during a pandemic when families can barely afford to put food on the table.

Additionally, I know what it feels like to wonder if I'll be able to see a doctor if I get sick. I have multiple diagnoses, and for years I was going back and forth between dying and being healthy until I was approved for Medicaid. I am only here today because this program, and I would love to see this opportunity to be extended to my friends with mental illness, my cousins with chronic illness who misses their classes because they can't get up in the morning without seething in pain, and my aunt who can't afford her glasses and continues to tape them together.

The stress of not being able to be prepared for an emergency was very scary and I wish it on no one.

Please vote yes for SB 842. Your vote could be the difference between life and death for a member of our Connecticut Community.

Thank you for taking the time to read this email. I look forward to more updates on this very important bill.

Best,
Amanda Valentin BSW
She/her
Southern Connecticut State University
Graduate Class of 2021
Advanced Standing Student, MSW Program