



Dear Members of the Appropriations Committee:

My name is Giselle Chavez and I am from Bridgeport Connecticut. I am a leader of the fight back committee at Make the Road CT. I support S.B. 195: An Act Concerning Health Insurance and Health Care In Connecticut.

S.B. 195 will make health care equitable, dependable, and affordable by creating new public options for health insurance in our state.

The pandemic has affected me economically. I got laid off from my job, I had no source of income and jobs were not hiring. It was hard to look for a job that gave me enough hours to pay the bills. I was recently pregnant and I would visit the doctor in the beginning of my pregnancy because I had qualified for Husky D. But once I started working around my 4th month of pregnancy, my insurance was cut off due to the fact that my income increased so I didn't qualify for Husky D any more. All my health benefits were shut off. There were several times that I couldn't go to my OBGYN check ups or to my sonograms to know how my baby was doing because I feared what my bill would look like and what I was making would not cover the bill.

Now I have to make the decision to either leave my job or receive health insurance. I ask that you support S.B 195 which increases HUSKY D eligibility to 201%FPL. It is not fair for individuals that have an average wage job to lose our health benefits and to not be able to go to the hospital because we fear that we won't be able to afford to pay the medical bills.

I urge the Committee and Connecticut lawmakers to support S.B. 195 to expand high-quality, dependable, and affordable health care by creating new public options for health insurance.

Thank you for your time,
Giselle Chavez, Leader at Make the Road CT