

**Hello, my name is Joaneen Soucy. I'm here to support SB 425, "The State Basic Health Program" I live at 183 Boston Hill Rd in Andover, CT. I am a 62 year old woman who does not have health care insurance.**

**My husband Gilbert of 43 years was always employed during our marriage, and carried our family's medical insurance through his employment. During the sixties and seventies I was a stay at home Mom, and after that I was self employed.**

**A few years ago, Gil was injured at work which required surgery. In February of 2010 he had recovered and was scheduled to return to work. He received a phone call from the employer's secretary informing him that work at the company was slow and that he was no longer needed. Oh, and by the way, his health insurance and life insurance coverage was terminated along with 8 weeks paid vacation which was due him.**

**Needless to say, after being a faithful employee for 33 years, Gil was devastated to end his employment in such a crude manor. He contacted the State to find out about obtaining Cobra insurance. We purchased this insurance for several months and on a few different occasions, doctor's coverage, and prescription coverage was denied. We were told that this coverage was denied since the premium was not paid. Our part of the Cobra was paid, but not the Employers. It was reinstated twice, but after the third time that the Employer let it lapse, and his check bounced, the coverage was permanently gone.**

**Since then, this Employer has gone out of business, leaving many other employees high and dry for Health Care Coverage.**

**My husband and I are both retired and living on Social Security now. Gil is finally able to have medical coverage through Medicare, but I won't be eligible until June of 2014. Our income is just a little over the income limit to qualify for the Lia program for me. I have health issues which I have to ignore since I cannot afford private insurance. Our State needs to step up and see to it that no one is lacking health insurance. I feel like I am a walking time bomb and can be wiped out in a second if I get sick.**

**Our son-in-law Enrique Nieves was also employed at this same company for 10 years. He developed lung cancer while working there. Two weeks before his death, he was informed that the Employer dropped his Health Care Insurance and Life Insurance. He died leaving a 36 year old widow (who is our daughter Karen) and their two young children with no Life Insurance to bury him with, and no Medical Insurance coverage. The children were able to obtain Husky insurance, but Karen was not covered for a long period of time.**

**She eventually was able to obtain the Community Health Care insurance that the State offered at that time. Unfortunately many area doctors on the providers list no longer honored this insurance, and most were in the New Haven area. Traveling for over an hour away to seek medical attention is a little unreasonable.**

**That is why you should support SB 425, "The State Basic Health Program"**

**Thank you, Joaneen Soucy**