

Hello my name is Sara I am from Central America. My partner and I fled our country from poverty and violence. We come to this country seeking a better life. Soon after we moved here, my partner and I realized that we did not qualified for medical insurance due to our legal status. We have two children together. Since my daughter was born in USA, she has medical insurance, while my son who was born in my country does not. I was diagnosed with fibromyalgia a few years ago. I experience intense muscle pain in my feet and legs, my arms and back. There are days that my whole my body hurt. I am not able to work because of the pain and fatigue. Fatigue that makes completing daily activities difficult. I also experience cognitive difficulties, and mental fogginess, I have problems with memory, concentration and organization. The chronic pain from this illness prevents me from enjoying life. It limits playing with my children or taking them to the park. I have Free Care from Maine Medical Center; however, this Free Care only covers doctors' visits. I do not have access to treatment for fibromyalgia, such as physical therapy or any kind of therapies. I suffer of depression because of the constant pain I endure every day.

My partner works 6 days a week 12 hours a day to support us, he works cleaning offices. He recently started to experience pain in his foot but he does not go to the doctors because he does not have medical insurance. He continues to go to work in pain, I know that his foot will get worse if he does not get the proper treatment for his foot.

My older child was diagnosed with obesity but because he does not have medical insurance, he cannot get the proper treatment he needs. I have to explain to my son who is 9 years old that he cannot go to the doctors because of where he was born. And explain to him that his sister has access to healthcare coverage because she was born in USA.

I urge you to support this bill, because healthcare is a human right. Support this bill so that people like me with chronic conditions can seek medical treatment. Support this bill so other people in my community can seek medical treatment without the fear of how much it will cost.

Thank you.