

Statewide Healthcare
Ruby Ali

Good morning ladies & gentlemen of the panel: My name is Ruby Ali, I am a Bronx born native, who's My mother was an ER nurse at North Central Bronx Hospital. She worked for the city for nearly 40 years. Her eagerness to help others I'm sure contributed to my passion to do the same. I pursued a bachelor's degree in Health Administration, and then signed up for an LPN program soon after.

I was an EMT for Senior Care, and the Fire Department and did nursing clinicals at St. Barnabas, Jacobi, and Monti North. I also interned at NCB in their ED. I have a father that has suffered 1 stroke, 1 TBI and has received 2 brain surgeries. Since 2015 he has had 3 separate stays at 2 different nursing homes.

Do to my training, upbringing, and father's abilities to do many things for himself, I refuse to keep him in a facility that medicates him with sedatives unnecessarily so that he is more manageable. I nursed my father back to health and have been taking direct care of him since our building suffered a fire back on January 30th, 2018.

As a direct result of the fire I had to leave my nursing program and take total care of my dad, because of this I am unavailable to work. The hands on care that I provide him with I am not compensated for. He needs long term care. In order to be a paid provider for him I need to receive a physical. Impossible to do without Health insurance!

As a full-time student in 2015 I lost my health insurance (Medicaid), I tried to get it back and was unsuccessful. I tried again in 2017, 18, and 19, I was unsuccessful.

I have been more than 3 yrs. without any health interventions. I am an educated citizen with a degree in Healthcare. I have patient centered training experience, and yet my last trip to a Hospital left me in the corner crying! For reasons I will not discuss in detail today,

In closing, I'm here to testify in favor of the New York Health Act because it will not only guarantee that someone like my dad will get the care that he needs, but that I also receive care. I ask you to put a stop at this revolving door this State has created within this unfair healthcare system. I ask you to understand that healthcare is our right, just as housing and nutrition should be too. I urge you to pass the New York Health Care Act.

Thank you for your consideration,
Ruby Ali

Lisa Reynolds

My name is Lisa Reynolds and I am from the Bronx, NY. Currently, I am a resident of Patterson Houses. This morning, I am here to tell my story; to testify in favor of the New York Health Act.

In March of 2017 I became ill and had to leave my job. As a result a Workers Compensation case ensued. In this process, I discovered that the insurance carrier for the employer is not liable for medical treatment in association with a patient's injuries, until a case is established. This process could take anywhere from 1 to 3 years or more given the nature/ramifications of the case.

My case was established within the first year. However, the insurance carrier appealed the decision and won. I was terminated from my job. The insurance carrier maintained there stance

by denying me access to proper medical care and I was left in limbo.

In april of 2019, after a 2-year process my case was re-established. Nevertheless, losing my job, the threat of being homeless and without proper medical care had not only a physical affect on me, but a psychological one causing unnecessary mental stress and abuse that could have been and should have been avoided.

Affordable healthcare is a must for all New Yorkers. If passed, the New York Health Act will ensure that we are all covered regardless of our employment status and/or circumstance. Employment status and insurance status will no longer be tied.

Without PROPER HEALTH CARE, we have nothing to assist us in achieving and maintaining good health. Access to affordable healthcare fosters survival, pushing us forward; in pursuit of living our best life. I urge you to pass the New York Health Act.