

House Committee on Human Services and Housing
February 25, 2015
HB 2029

Chair Keny-Guyer and members of the committee;

Thank you for this opportunity to speak about the TANF program and how it has impacted me and my children.

My goal is to become self sufficient. Although I received TANF many different times over 10 years, it was always my hope to show my family that I could get a job and support them. I didn't want to rely on the system.

When I was receiving TANF, the \$430 a month that I received to support my child meant that I had help with housing and living expenses. I did not receive any support from my children's father. Every month after I paid my bills, I had no money left over for other basic needs. I had to turn to organizations like food pantries for shampoo, soap and diapers, and I went to a clothing closet program for baby clothes for my daughter.

I am currently enrolled in a job-training program through Home Forward, and I have been an intern at 211info for the past three months. It is my hope to get hired on as soon as my training program is complete. At 211info, I work with callers whose situations are tough -- they are so close to receiving benefits but they are denied, even though they can't pay their bills or help their children. I support House Bill 2029, which would assist others whose struggle is much like mine.

Sincerely,

Lucia Solorzano

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lucia Solorzano', written in a cursive style. The signature is positioned below the typed name.