



Good Afternoon Chair Salinas and members of the committee. My name is Scarlet Allen and I am an Assistant Cook at Legacy Emanuel Hospital where I have worked for 24 years. The reason I am here today is to talk about an experience I had 6 years ago.

6 years ago, I had a heart attack in my home. My husband rushed me to the emergency room at Emanuel because I live and work in the community served by the hospital. They placed three stents in my heart. The real shock came when I received the bill for my stay. Even though I was an employee of the hospital and had insurance through my employer, I was responsible for around \$7000, which I couldn't afford. I applied for financial assistance and was denied because the hospital said that my husband and I made too much money.

Over the next few years I tried to pay off the bill but couldn't afford to with my wages. Eventually I got a letter from Multnomah County Courts telling me that I had three days to call and set up a payment plan or Legacy would sue me in court and garnish my check. So I called to set up a payment plan and was told that the least I could pay was \$300 a month which I still couldn't afford. This meant that I had to delay paying other bills and borrowed money from friends and family.

I later found out that the collection agency I had to make payments to was also owned in part by Legacy. SEIU approached me and asked me to tell my story in a video for their website. After that video went public I found out that my medical bill was suddenly cut in half.

This bill is important because everyone deserves healthcare. A lot of my coworkers are scared to go to the doctor because of the cost. As a non-profit hospital, Legacy needs to do better as a community partner. Thank you.

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