



**Testimony - SB 518**  
**Career Pathways for Healthcare Workers Program**  
**Position: Favorable**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in favor of SB518 Career Pathways for Health Care Workers Program. My name is Augustine Amara, and I am a member of 1199SEIU. I have worked as an Environmental Services Technician at Capital Region Medical Center since 2016, and healthcare workers like me are very interested in career training, but we don't always have the money to fund our education. That's why this bill would be so beneficial to us and to our communities that need dedicated healthcare workers.

I am interested in career training because in life, you cannot be static; you need to move and aim high so that you can achieve great things for your family, your personal life, and even your society. I want to aim high in healthcare because compassion is one of my Christian values, and I believe in helping people. I want to take care of sick people in whatever way I can contribute because seeing a sick person becoming well again at the end of the day is a very good thing to me.

Even though there are many compassionate workers like me who want to advance in healthcare, cost is an issue because training involves money. You might have all the talent, but if you don't have the financial backing, you can't do anything, and nobody will even know that you have this kind of talent. Cost is the key area that is stopping a good number of people from becoming healthcare workers and advancing in healthcare. We want to achieve and be able to do something for ourselves, our families, and our communities by using our talent to acquire needed skills.

I want to thank you for giving me this opportunity to express my view, and to let you know that a good number of us are looking for the kind of opportunity that you can real. If this bill will go through, you will have many different kinds of people able to achieve their goal, so it is a good thing, and I hope it will come to pass.