

Press Conference re: Resurrection Health Care  
September 16, 2PM  
120 N. La Salle St., 8<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Chicago, Illinois

**STATEMENT BY CAROL NIEWINSKI  
UNINSURED PATIENT PLAINTIFF**

**Age:** 62

**Residence:** Jefferson Park, Chicago

**Income:** Social Security plus part-time earnings at \$10 an hour.

**Assets:** Single family home. No pension, no savings account or car.

**Debt:** \$52,000 to Resurrection Medical Center and Our Lady of the Resurrection.

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My name is Carol Niewinski. I was a stay-at-home mom for my three daughters, and now I take care of my grandkids while their mom works. My husband does sewer work, and his job never offered health insurance.

Until recently, I was pretty lucky that my health was good. Then I was hit with two major health problems, a gallbladder attack and fibroids that were causing heavy bleeding. I had gallbladder surgery at Resurrection Medical Center, and was treated for the bleeding at Our Lady of the Resurrection.

The hospital never told us what the cost was going to be or that there was financial help available. We thought it would be expensive, but when we finally added up all the bills, we couldn't believe we owed more than \$50,000. We didn't feel it should be free, but we just don't think it's right that we should have to pay so much more than someone with insurance pays.

We've never had any debts before except the mortgage on our house. Our only income is Social Security plus a little from my husband's part-time job as a sewer man. We tried to ask the hospitals for help. My husband and daughter went back and forth to the financial aid office so many times, bringing them all the papers they asked for. They even wanted a copy of our marriage certificate.

But in the end, all we got was a 10% discount on one bill, and they took us to court to get the rest. Now we pay \$300 every month to the hospitals—a quarter of my husband's Social Security check. We're afraid if we don't keep paying we'll lose our house.

My husband's health is not too good. He lost sight in one eye a few months back and suffers from arthritis. He's worked all his life and now when he should be retired he has to keep on working to pay off this bill. And I know it's not just us, there's a lot of people in the same boat, including young people with children. That's why I'm here today, to hopefully change the way Resurrection treats people in the future. Thank you.

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