

Submitter: Perla Estrada

On Behalf
Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On Public
Safety

Measure: SB5514

SB5514; HB 2933; HB 3018

To whom it may concern,

I joined EPHC during the beginning of the pandemic as an Adult Wellness Specialist for Aging Services and just recently transferred to UNICA in November 2022 and have been in the position of Parent Child Specialist. During my 3 years working at EPHC, I have seen how much Client Assistance and Information and Referral we provide our Latino Community. EPHC is truly a special and safe space for clients to come and ask question in their native languages. I can say in my humble opinion, this is a very special place for our community and one of the many few that have culturally specific services.

I have so many amazing and inspiring woman that I'm very proud to serve, but one that stand out of my caseload is one of my recent clients. She had just recently gotten away for an abusive relationship she did not know about any of UNICA services. We connected in a clinic where I was dropping off flyer for one of UNICA support groups. She came up to me and asked me what the classes were for and I explained my position and what the organization can assist with. She asked if she can have my business card and call me. The next day she called me, and we connected and did her Intake Immediately.

She mentioned that she did not know of any of the services of UNICA, just recently she saved up enough to get her own apartment that she lives with her daughter. We had a first home visit and she mentioned that she was still saving up to purchase kitchen essential and things for her apartment. Since she left her abuser everything that she had in her previous home was left there. I let her know that we can help and

buy her a few items for her home. We scheduled a shopping trip and purchased essential items for her and her family. She was so grateful for what UNICA was able to help her purchase, you can see my participants face light up and she thank me the whole time we where at the store. Its truly amazing to see how we can empower woman and support them in their journey.

“Carry out a random act of kindness, with no expectation of reward, safe in the knowledge that one day someone might do the same for you.”

-Princess Diana