



# Make the Road by Walking, Inc.

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## **Testimonio de Irania Sánchez** *Miembro de Se Hace Camino al Andar*

Yo soy Irania Sánchez y mis dos hijas se llaman Gabriela y Aylin. Ellas nacieron en Brooklyn y son ciudadanas de los Estados Unidos. Yo nací en Managua, Nicaragua.

Yo he vivido en los Estados Unidos por muchos años. He trabajado y estudiado desde que llegue a este país. Llegue a Nueva York en 1991 con el propósito de estar al lado de mi abuelita y familia. También con todas las ganas de salir adelante para poder llegar a ser alguien en este país. Si investigasen el record en los trabajos que he tenido en Nueva York, he dejado los jefes de trabajos con una sonrisa grande y muy contentos. Yo soy una persona que trabaja fuerte.

Debido a que mi matrimonio fue un fracaso, quede sola con mis dos hijas. Entonces, ellas salieron con problemas de bronquitis y asma. Debido a este circunstancia me vi casi obligada a pedir ayuda del gobierno para estar pendiente a la medicina y cuidado de mis hijas. Tenia que ponerle a Gabi en la maquina cada seis horas. Cuando fui al centro de welfare me hicieron difícil comunicarme con los trabajadores sociales porque ellos solo hablaron en ingles y yo hablo solo español. Mi poquito ingles no era para que nos entendiéramos bien.

Tuve muchas dificultades aplicando para los beneficios. Estas dificultades afectaron más a mis pequeñas niñas que a mí. El trabajador social no le intereso darme Medicaid de Emergencia aunque le entregue dos cartas, una del pediatra y otra del especialista de los pulmones. No le intereso nada y me recibió muy mal, diciendo palabras sucias contra nosotros los hispanos. Yo sentía mucha maldad de el y la desesperación que no le dio importancia la salud de mi hija y me puse a llorar.

Gracias a la ayuda que recibí de una organizadora de la organización Se Hace Camino al Andar que conocí en el centro, pude resolver los problemas de comunicación, entender mis derechos y exigir todo que esta requerido por la ley de esta gran ciudad. Como resultado, mis hijas recibieron seguro y tratamiento medico que ellas necesitaban.

La iniciativa de ley REAACT aseguraría que otras madres y residentes de Nueva York tendrían acceso a apoyo e información en las oficinas del gobierno de esta ciudad. Este apoyo es tan importante para nuestras comunidades y espero que ustedes la apoyen.

Gracias.

**Testimony of Irania Sanchez**  
Member of Make the Road by Walking

I am Irania Sanchez and my daughters are named Gabriela and Aylin. They were born in Brooklyn and they are citizens of the United States. I was born in Managua, Nicaragua.

I have lived in the United States for many years. I have worked since I arrived in this country and I have studied. I arrived in New York in 1991 in order to be near my grandmother and my family. Also, I came with the desire to make progress and to be somebody important in this country. If you were to investigate my record at all of the jobs that I have held in New York, you would see that I have left all of my bosses smiling and very satisfied with my work. I am a person who works hard.

When my marriage broke up, I was left by myself to care for my daughters. Then it turned out that they both had a variety of bronchial problems and asthma. As a result of these circumstances, I had no alternative but to seek support from the government to be able to be available to help my daughters comply with her medication regimen. I had to hook Gabriela up to a machine to clean her lungs every six hours. When I went to the Welfare Center, it was very difficult for me to communicate with the social workers because they only spoke English and I speak Spanish. My little bit of English is not enough to enable us to understand each other.

I had many difficulties applying for benefits. These difficulties affected my little daughter even more than they affected me. My social worker had no interest in giving my daughter Emergency Medicaid even though I brought him two letters, one from the general practitioner and another from a lung doctor. The worker was not at all helpful and he treated me very badly, saying insulting things about Hispanic people. I felt very badly because of him and was in a state of desperation because he was so unconcerned about the health of my daughter that I cried.

Thanks to the help of an organizer from Make the Road by Walking that I met in the Center, I was able to resolve my communication problems, understand my rights and demand what is required by the laws of this great City. As a result, my daughters received the health insurance and health treatment that they needed.

The REACT Bill will ensure that other mothers and residents of New York will have access to the support and information that they need in government offices throughout the city. This support is so very important for our communities and I hope you will support it.

Thank you.