



My name is Jennifer Brown, and I am a group home worker with two private agencies, Sunrise Northeast and Network, Inc. I used to work at a private group-home company called New Seasons, which dissolved, and was acquired by Network in July, 2019. I have been working in this industry for 25 years.

Years ago, at New Seasons, we did not have to pay for health insurance at all. If you were full-time, the company would provide you with insurance with a premium, which was good. Over the years, we started to have to pay, but even then, what we were paying was still affordable. It didn't matter if it was just you on the plan, or your kids, or your spouse, or the entire family, all the workers could afford it. Now that the company dissolved, we are forced to deal with this new health insurance. Now both of my jobs have very unaffordable health insurance, and I am forced to pay for the Network plan. I make too much money to qualify for state health insurance, and I otherwise would not be covered at all.

Even for just me, it is over \$300 a month. I absolutely cannot afford to put my husband on this insurance. Our copay and our deductible are so high, it is disgusting, and so are our expenses for medicine. I have a coworker who is diabetic, and this insurance doesn't even cover some of her necessary medications that I need to continue to live and be healthy. It's just disgusting. It is hard for any of us to be healthy under this plan, because the cost of obtaining coverage and maintaining our medications is too high.

The health insurance plans offered through my other jobs are even more unaffordable. At Sunrise, the health insurance costs more than what most employees make. Many of us don't have health insurance. There is no way that I can afford to use this plan. I have a pre-existing condition, and I need to be covered. As things are, how am I supposed to live a healthy life? How am I expected to afford it?