Introduction: Maggie Reynolds, UMass Chan '26, is the last of the students in my Structural Inequity, Advocacy, and Justice (SIAJ) Pathway to share their writing from our recent humanities session. She has written several pieces about the inequities she sees around her as she volunteers and interacts with people in Worcester. She describes the context of each piece below.

More Short Writings #2

By Maggie Reynolds

Maggie: I wrote the first two pieces on my experience working with teenage mothers struggling with housing insecurity.

Haiku:
Two weeks postpartum.
The staff lights sixteen candles.
How scared you must be.

Longer poem:
Sixteen candles
Two weeks postpartum
We cheer as you blow them out
The love of your life bundled in your arms

Vanilla cake, vanilla frosting
The same as mine ten years prior
Yet you're forced to take on a role
I will not know for a decade

How scared you must be
In this world that's betrayed your trust
But despite the trauma your body and mind have endured
Tonight you show strength and joy and hope

Maggie: I wrote this Haiku thinking about a MassAHEC Urban Health Scholars event I attended at Everyday Miracles with their Miracle Mamas program. We heard women share their experience with their providers being forced to file 51A's on them after adhering to their prescribed suboxone therapy while pregnant.

Haiku:
51A. Filed.
You listened to us. Trusted.
Your child is now gone.

I wrote the following two pieces about housing insecurity. The first was inspired from many of the sessions we've had with SIAJ and from the stories I've heard from Dr. Garcia. The second is about the cognitive dissonance that I've experienced from buying an older/historic home in Worcester with my partner while in medical school.

Haiku:
Tents pitched and taken.
Cold and hungry. Forgotten.
Fair market value.

Longer poem:
I sit in a palace
Crumbling around me
I can't stop feeling
I stole this from you

What was yours
Is now ours
Our proudest accomplishment
Your worst nightmare

Our living
Our means to stability
As I dedicate my training to you
Undermines your survival