



Testimony in Support of SB 425, An Act Concerning the Basic Health Program
Public Health Committee
Public Hearing March 21, 2012

Submitted by Mary Pat Healy, Executive Director, BCAC

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Executive Director

The Bridgeport Child Advocacy Coalition (BCAC) appreciates the opportunity to submit testimony in support of implementing the Basic Health Program in Connecticut.

Under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, states have the option of implementing a Basic Health Program for people with incomes between 133% and 200% of federal poverty. The Basic Health Program would be funded at a 95% level by the federal government using funds that would have provided subsidies to participants purchasing private insurance on the Health Insurance Exchange.

We strongly support implementing the Basic Health Program. We further urge that the Basic Health Program mirror Medicaid benefits. By mirroring Medicaid benefits:

- Adults, whose income fluctuates, would not be going back and forth between Medicaid and private coverage;
- Parents would have access to the same provider networks as their children on HUSKY;
- Comprehensive health care benefits would be preserved for parents **currently on HUSKY** and who are earning 133-185% of poverty;
- Premiums and co-pays would be less than insurance offered on the Exchange.

As many as 100,000 Connecticut residents would be eligible for the Basic Health Program. Many of these individuals are working at jobs that either do not offer health insurance or the insurance offered is unaffordable. Others work part-time, sometimes at two and three jobs, and don't qualify for benefits.

For more than ten years, BCAC has been providing HUSKY application assistance to families. Through our work, we have learned that the income of many employees in this range (133-200% of federal poverty) fluctuates, especially for those who have seasonal jobs or work part-time. By providing a Basic Health Program that mirrors Medicaid, these adults would not only have access to critically needed comprehensive health coverage, they would also be able to have continuity of health care.

We strongly support SB 425, An Act Concerning the Basic Health Program. We encourage you to do the same.

Thank you.