



Testimony
Opposing the Governor's Budget Proposal to
Eliminate HUSKY Coverage of Parents Between 133%-185% FPL
Appropriations Committee
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Universal Health Care Foundation of Connecticut strongly supports the implementation of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) in Connecticut. The ACA is intended to reduce the number of uninsured in our state and provide them with affordable, comprehensive health insurance coverage. We therefore strongly oppose the administration's proposal to take HUSKY coverage away from parents with incomes between 133% and 185% of the federal poverty level (FPL). This change will mean up to 30,000 people who currently have access to affordable, comprehensive coverage will lose it – the exact opposite result intended by the ACA.

If this change is approved, HUSKY parents will face two untenable choices: purchase unaffordable insurance in the Exchange that covers fewer services or go without insurance. Given the high cost of living in Connecticut, this latter outcome is quite likely. In fact, a Mercer Health & Benefits report commissioned by the Health Insurance Exchange indicated that that up to 50% of this population will become uninsured if faced with purchasing insurance in the Exchange.

Research shows that low income children maintain higher rates of coverage if their parents are insured. If parents are uninsured, children are more likely to be uninsured. In addition, experience has shown that the administrative simplicity of having the same eligibility standards apply to parents and children is preferable.

Finally, the ACA will be sending hundreds of millions of new federal dollars into Connecticut's coffers due to the expansion of Medicaid and the provision of a 100% federal match for those currently receiving assistance through the state's Low Income Adults (LIA) program. Clearly, with this influx of money into the state, Connecticut can afford to keep these parents whole. Universal Health Care Foundation of Connecticut urges the committee to reject this budget cut and allow HUSKY parents between 133% and 185% FPL to remain in Medicaid.