



2139 Silas Deane Highway
Suite 205
Rocky Hill, CT 06067
(860) 257-8066

Raymie H. Wayne, Ph.D., JD, MSW, President
Stephen A Karp, MSW, Executive Director
naswct@naswct.net

Human Services Committee
Public Hearing- February 26th, 2013

Respectfully Submitted By: Ashley Williams, BSW; MSW Intern, NASW/CT

Good afternoon members of the committee. My name is Ashley Williams and I am a current graduate student at the UConn School of Social Work. I am also the MSW intern at the Connecticut Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers and I am here to present NASW/CT's position on the proposed cuts to the HUSKY A insurance plan and the proposed increase to the HUSKY D (LIA) plan.

NASW/CT understands that this years' budget means that difficult decisions need to be made, but we also recognize that some of the cuts that are being proposed will negatively impact large populations of people that social workers work with every day. HUSKY A currently covers families who are up to 185% of the Federal Poverty Line, which for a family of 3 is approximately \$29,000.00 a year. The proposed cut to eliminate parents between 133% and 185% of the FPL will create a population of about 30,000 parents who are left without affordable insurance. Transitioning these parents into the Health Insurance Exchange may sound nice, but the reality of these parents being able to afford the deductibles and co-pays is not very high. The HUSKY A insurance plan is an instrumental part of the lives of many struggling parents, and although the children would be allowed to keep their insurance, we know that a parent who is worried about how they are going to afford health insurance for themselves cannot be 100% effective in raising their child.

I, myself am a HUSKY A recipient and this insurance plan has given myself and my soon to be baby boy comprehensive healthcare throughout my pregnancy. Upon signing up for HUSKY, I was worried about the stigma and difficulties that may be attached to it, however I quickly realized that this program is much more accepting than I once thought. I have had a great experience in finding doctors and dealing with the HUSKY system, and if it were not for this insurance plan, I would not have received prenatal care and my son may have run the risk of dealing with complications that come along with prenatal negligence. Because of HUSKY A, myself and Baby Lucas have been healthy throughout the entirety of my pregnancy.

NASW/CT supports the Governor's proposal to increase the income requirements for LIA to up to 133% of the FPL, as this would help a large number of people who desperately need it. However, we are asking that the benefits for all HUSKY programs be uniform, so we oppose the Governor's idea of being able to change what medical procedures are covered under each individual HUSKY Program. We believe that each HUSKY recipient should be entitled to the same level of care whether they are on HUSKY A or HUSKY D.

As social workers, it is vital for us to create a voice for people who are oppressed and living in poverty. HUSKY recipients are often living in impoverished situations, but they are people just like anybody else and it is important for us to recognize them as such and give them the services that they deserve. NASW/CT strongly opposes the proposed cut to the HUSKY A insurance plan, but we support the increase to the HUSKY D plan and we respectfully request that the committee consider our beliefs. We strongly feel that everybody in this state should have access to affordable and comprehensive healthcare and the HUSKY Insurance Plan is proving itself to be just that.

Thank you very much for your time.